

مكدات الأمل

Israeli-backed militiaman killed

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas Saturday shelled a post of the Israeli-affiliated South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia. Security sources said a militiaman was killed and nine others were wounded. The Islamic Resistance, military arm of Hizbollah, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement released in the market town of Nabatiyyeh, north of the enclave Israel occupied in South Lebanon. The statement said the attack was launched "to commemorate the memory of Sheikh Abbas Musawi," the former leader of Hizbollah, who was killed when Israeli helicopter gunships blasted his convoy with wire-guided missiles in South Lebanon Feb. 16, 1992. One security source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said several mortar rounds slammed into the SLA post in Shoumarriyeh inside Israel's self-styled "security zone" at 3:15 p.m. (1315 GMT). He said two of the wounded men suffered minor injuries. The rest were evacuated to a hospital in Marjayoun. Officers with the United Nations peacekeeping force in South Lebanon said SLA militiamen retaliated by shelling the vicinity of the Litani River and the village of Zawar Sharqiyyeh, which overlooks Shoumarriyeh, with Howitzer rounds.

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League council to meet on Israeli practices

CAIRO (AP) — The Arab League meets next Tuesday to consider Israeli measures against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the league's top executive said Saturday. Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary general of the 21-member group, told reporters the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) requested the meeting after Israeli occupation forces cracked down harshly on Palestinians in recent weeks. The meeting will be low-level, with only permanent delegates accredited to the Cairo-based league attending. Dr. Abdul Meguid said, a League official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said nothing more than a statement condemning Israel is expected. PLO leader Yasser Arafat messaged Dr. Abdul Meguid and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday complaining about the situation. Mr. Arafat's message decried "Israel's killing of Palestinians and destruction of their homes. The messages urged action to stop these practices," a PLO official said.

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King visits Somalia unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Saturday visited the Royal Military College, where he inspected a unit which has been prepared and equipped to participate with the international emergency forces deployed in Somalia. King Hussein watched exercises by the unit. King Hussein was accompanied on the visit by the chief of staff of the land forces and his assistant for operations and training.

Husseini: PLO could enter peace talks

CAIRO (R) — Faisal Husseini, head of Palestinian delegates to Middle East peace talks, was quoted on Saturday as saying the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would have to enter the talks directly if Israel did not show more flexibility. Mr. Husseini told Al Quds newspaper the expulsion of Palestinians and rising bloodshed in the occupied territories would require the PLO to step up resistance if they continued. Only the PLO would have the credibility to counter an increasingly brutal occupier in the streets and at the negotiating table at the same time, he said. "If this is (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin's choice we also will not be bound by negotiations alone. (We) will have no choice but to call on supporters to respond to Israeli oppression," said Mr. Husseini. "But when this happens and the rules of the game change, we who are under Israeli authority will change places with the PLO outside, which possess the authority and the power and the freedom to carry out this policy," he added. "The PLO will negotiate directly as well as leading the resistance struggle, as happened in the negotiations over Vietnam and Algeria," Mr. Husseini said.

Libya appears to soften stance

TUNIS (R) — A close aide to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Saturday Tripoli would allow two Libyans to stand trial in Britain or the United States over the Lockerbie bombing if so ordered by an international court. The comments by Belagacem Al Zawi, Libya's ambassador to Morocco, appeared to be a softening of Tripoli's stance. Last month, Libya appeared to harden its position by saying it wanted a just and fair trial in a "neutral country." It had said previously it would accept a trial in a "just and fair court," appearing to leave open the possibility of proceedings in Britain or the United States. Mr. Zawi said his country would abide by any ruling by the International Court of Justice in the Hague, which heard Libya's request last March to consider the dispute.

Bashir relieves foreign minister

KHARTOUM (AP) — Ali Sahoul, Sudan's foreign minister since Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir came to power in a military coup 3 1/2 years ago, has been relieved from his post, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Saturday. SUNA said Mr. Sahoul was replaced by Hussein Abu Saleh, a medical doctor who has held a portfolio in every single cabinet since 1985. No reason was given for Gen. Bashir's decision. Mr. Sahoul, a career diplomat, returned to the Foreign Ministry as ambassador with the status of a federal minister. Mr. Abu Saleh has served as minister of foreign affairs, health, culture, development and social welfare.

Maghreb leaders plan summit

UNIS (R) — The heads of state of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia will meet in Tunisia at the end of 1993 in an attempt to speed up regional integration, Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia said Tuesday. The five countries met up the Arab Maghreb Union, which was set up in 1989 to work for a regional common market. Mr. Ben Yahia, speaking at a two-day meeting of the union's council of ministers in Tunis, said the ministers had decided to give priority to putting effect 25 agreements.

Security Council accepts Israeli offer over evictees as first step

Rabin asserts crisis is resolved; Palestinians dismiss U.N. move as illegitimate and meaningless

Combined agency dispatches

THE SECURITY Council, prompted by the U.S., has moved to clear the way for continued Middle East peace talks by accepting Israel's offer to repatriate 101 of more than 400 expelled Palestinians.

But Palestinians dismissed Friday's development as "meaningless" and illegitimate. The exiles Saturday held a mock funeral for the Security Council.

Diplomats had said the United States wanted the Security Council to demonstrate to Arab countries that it had not dropped the issue of the expulsions, which have stalled the U.S.-sponsored peace talks.

But the move may backfire if it is seen as nothing more than an attempt to avoid sanctioning Israel.

Arab states have said they would not return to the negotiating table until all the men were repatriated, as the Security Council first demanded in a resolution passed on Dec. 10, a day after the mass expulsions.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin asserted that the issue of the expelled had come to its conclusion following the U.N. statement.

The Security Council said it acknowledged an Israeli decision to repatriate 101 expellees immediately and the others by the end of the year, calling it "a step in the right direction."

"The issue of the leaders of

Hamas who were removed came to its conclusion following the understanding reached between Israel and the U.S. administration and the Israeli government decision taken following that understanding on Feb. 1."

Mr. Rabin said through his spokesman.

The Israeli decision to shorten the terms of exile of the alleged Islamic militants was reached after negotiations with U.S. representatives.

Mr. Rabin said he hoped the peace talks could now be resumed. The Palestinian negotiating team dropped out of the talks, demanding that Israel comply with Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the return of the evictees.

"This formal conclusion at the Security Council paves the way for the resumption of the peace talks," Mr. Rabin's spokesman said. "The prime minister hopes all the parties involved in the negotiations will now make every effort to bring about the resumption of the talks as soon as possible."

The U.N. paper was read by Security Council President Ahmad Snoussi at a meeting with Israeli U.N. envoy Gad Yaacobi.

The points covered in the statement:

— Reaffirmed the council's commitment to Resolution 799, demanding the immediate return of all the banished Palestinians, and the need for its implementation;

— Took note of a Feb. 9 letter

from Mr. Yaacobi to the council president saying Israel's recent decision to repatriate some of the expelled at once and the rest before the end of the year was "consistent with the principles of Resolution 799" an oblique acknowledgment of the council's order;

— Acknowledged Israel's decision as a step in the right direction;

— Urged Israel "to follow through expeditiously with the above points, allowing therefore the return of all the deportees as soon as possible";

— Reaffirmed support for the 16-month-old Middle East negotiations, and urged all concerned to redouble their efforts to reinvigorate the peace process.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due to visit the Middle East shortly and a resolution of the expellees issue would greatly assist his efforts to revive the peace talks.

Palestinian peace negotiator Hanan Ashrawi said in a statement the plan "fails to address the central issue of the illegality of deportations."

"The Palestinian position regarding the expulsions remains unchanged we are committed to the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 as a requirement for the resumption of negotiations," she said.

Dr. Ashrawi, in Washington for talks with State Department and White House officials, had said earlier Friday that the

Palestinians "will be willing to deal with whatever the Security Council decides" on implementing Resolution 779.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) U.N. observer, Nasser Al Kidwa, said he played no part in the council's action and reiterated demands for the immediate repatriation of all those expelled.

Mr. Yaacobi said: "We believe this issue is now finally removed from the agenda of the Security Council and the United Nations."

But Mr. Snoussi said the council "remains seized of the affair" — meaning it could return to the issue at a later date.

Mr. Kidwa said he would continue PLO efforts to have trade sanctions imposed on Israel unless all the evictees are returned immediately. The PLO had asked the Security Council to impose the sanctions.

Mr. Snoussi, the council's only Arab member, said the 15 nation council would take no more public action unless the situation flared up again in Israel or Lebanon.

The secretary general of the Arab League, Esmat Abdul Meguid, said the Security Council move could be viewed as "a step in the right direction."

"If these efforts fall within the framework of implementing the resolution fully and speedily so the peace talks can be held, then this is a positive matter," he said in Cairo.

Exiles stage 'funeral' for Security Council

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Nearly 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel staged a "funeral" Saturday for the U.N. Security Council to underline their rejection of a compromise under which Israel would repatriate them piecemeal.

Marching in the rain near their camp in southeast Lebanon, the evictees carried a wooden coffin labelled "U.N. Security Council" in a funeral procession.

The casket was lowered into a grave and the evictees' spokesman, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, told his comrades the Security Council was "the first fatality in our camp."

He hereby commemorate the Security Council's credibility, which it lost when it squandered the rights of the Palestinians to return home," said Dr. Rantisi, a physician from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

"Only God is immortal," the evictees chanted.

A wooden marker placed on the grave read in Arabic: "Here

rests the Security Council's credibility."

The U.N. Security Council Friday agreed to a U.S.-brokered compromise that allowed Israel to repatriate 101 expellees and "to follow through expeditiously to allow the return of all the deportees."

Dr. Rantisi said the formula was only aimed at smoothing the way for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region.

Mr. Christopher is due in the area Feb. 17 to try to revive Middle East peace talks, stalled since the expulsions.

"This declaration stresses anew the double standard used by the Security Council which has refused compromise solutions in implementing its resolutions in other international cases," Dr. Rantisi said on Friday's Security Council paper.

The paper said Israel's offer to let 101 return at once and the rest

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Russian envoy demands Iraqi compliance with U.N. terms

BAGHDAD (AP) — A Russian special envoy left Baghdad Saturday after Iraq apparently failed to win Moscow's support for the lifting of United Nations sanctions crippling the economy.

Igor Melekhov, deputy chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East desk, said that Iraq must first comply with all U.N. resolutions stemming from the Gulf war before Moscow would consider helping start a dialogue to end Iraq's isolation.

"I wouldn't say it was successful, I would say it was useful," said Mr. Melekhov of his talks with Iraqi officials.

The five-day visit was the first by a senior Russian official since before the Gulf war broke out in 1991. Moscow had previously been Iraq's chief military supplier.

"The bottom line was that Iraq must first comply with all Security Council resolutions before Russia could consider offering a helping hand," a diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Melekhov sought clarification

on Iraq's stand on complying with the resolutions and opinion of the new U.S. administration. He did not share his impressions with reporters.

Mr. Melekhov declined to make further statements before leaving the Iraqi capital on the 1,000 kilometre overland trip to Amman, Baghdad's only link with the outside world.

Iraqi officials had no immediate comment on the visit.

Russia's demand for a U.N. Security Council review of the U.S. cruise-missile attack on Baghdad last month fuelled Iraq's hopes of splitting Moscow away from the U.S.-led Gulf war coalition.

Iraq desperately needs the Security Council to lift economic sanctions imposed during the Gulf crisis so that it can gain sell oil and import goods.

The Security Council has demanded that Baghdad first comply with all resolutions pertaining

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Hariri: No separate peace with Israel

CAIRO (Agencies) — Lebanon's prime minister Saturday ruled out a separate peace treaty with Israel but said progress on the Jewish state's withdrawal from south Lebanon should not be linked to regional peace.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri also said President Hosni Mubarak pledged to use his influence with the Israelis to persuade them to withdraw from a self-proclaimed Lebanese "security zone."

Mr. Hariri did not rule out resuming stalled Middle East peace talks before the issue of Palestinian evictees was solved.

Making the first visit by a Lebanese prime minister to Cairo for 20 years, Mr. Hariri told a news conference he would wait to see what proposals U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had before commenting on when peace talks should restart.

Asked if Lebanon was prepared to restart talks before the

issue of Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon was resolved, he said: "Let me put the question another way. The deportees' issue, whatever happens, will be on the negotiations table."

"It's much better that it's solved before talks restart because matters will be very tough if it is not. In any case let us wait until (Christopher) comes and see what he's got."

"Signing a separate agreement with Israel is not possible," Mr. Hariri said after a 45 minute meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"But what is possible is implementation of the United Nations resolution calling for withdrawal of Israel from occupied Lebanese territory. This is the basis on which Lebanon entered the peace talks."

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U.N. team visits former Scud missile site in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — A team of U.N. inspectors spent its first day in the field Saturday visiting an Iraqi military camp where Scud missiles were built, a U.N. source said.

"We went to a site north of Baghdad doing an inventory of production tools," said Patrice Palanque, head of the 13-member team of international experts trying to fill remaining gaps in information on Iraq's ballistic weapons programme.

The U.N. source identified the site as Iraq's sprawling military camp of Taji in the northern outskirts of Baghdad.

"This is a typical military place, especially dedicated to Scud missiles," the source said.

Under U.N. supervision, the Iraqis destroyed the missile production machines in Taji.

Mr. Palanque, a Frenchman, and his team arrived in Baghdad on Friday to check that Iraq is not storing or secretly producing rockets prohibited under the Gulf war ceasefire terms.

There were no reports of Iraqi resistance or lack of cooperation when the team of 13 experts, which arrived in Baghdad Friday, took inventory of components and tools at the site.

Mr. Palanque said on arrival Friday that his team members were given the cold shoulder when the group landed in Iraq from Bahrain.

There was no Iraqi official to receive them, the bus that brought them to Baghdad from the military airport at Haddaniya, 60 kilometres west of the Iraqi capital, was late and immigration procedures took a long time.

But Mr. Palanque, himself an expert in ballistic missiles, said there was no sign of Iraqi indifference Saturday.

Asked to comment on the level of Iraqi cooperation Saturday, he said the "Iraqis are doing their job" and were being cooperative.

Mr. Palanque's team was the third to reach Iraq since the United States led a series of air strikes against Iraqi air-defence installations in January.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (second from left) Saturday holds talks with U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (third from left) in a meeting attended by Minister for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddine (left) and U.S. Ambassador Roger Harrison (Petra photo)

Sharif Zeid, Leahy say U.S. has to revise vision

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday held talks with U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy on Jordanian-American relations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

It quoted Sharif Zeid and Sen. Leahy as voicing "the need for the U.S. to review its vision of the Middle East region, taking into consideration the changes that have occurred on the international arena, and the aspiration of the peoples of the region."

During the meeting, which was attended by Minister for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddine and U.S. Ambassador Ro-

ger Harrison, Sharif Zeid and Sen. Leahy also reviewed the situation of the nearly 400 Palestinians now stranded in South Lebanon after they were expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities on Dec. 17.

Sen. Leahy, who is on a Middle East visit which has already taken him to Israel and Egypt, voiced his concern over the plight of the expelled and said that he was familiarised with the international position vis-a-vis Israel's stand on the crisis.

Petra said Sharif Zeid described the crisis as a stumbling

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Algerian strongman escapes carbomb

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar, seen as the strongman in Algeria's collective presidency, narrowly escaped assassination Saturday when a powerful carbomb exploded as he drove past.

The official APS news agency said the bomb was deliberately aimed at General Nezzar. He was not hurt and there were no casualties.

"The car, which was parked near Al Biar Stadium exploded about 10 a.m. just as the minister's car was near it," it said.

No-one had yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Gen. Nezzar is considered the strongman behind the High State Council, an army-backed junta that deposed President Chadli Benjedid in January 1992 when Muslim fundamentalists were about to sweep into control of parliament in legislative elections.

The council cancelled the elections and imposed a state of emergency that is still in effect.

Continuing skirmishes between Muslim insurgents and security forces have killed about 300 police and soldiers.

Last June Head of State Mohammed Boudiaf was shot dead by a 26-year-old officer in the security forces. An official inquiry said the assassin was a supporter of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) party.

"A government source said the powerful explosion caused only material damage. There were no wounded among the passengers in the minister's car nor among pedestrians," APS of Saturday's blast.

Less than 24 hours before the attack, Algeria's justice ministry announced that four Muslim fundamentalists had been executed after the supreme court rejected their appeals (see page 2).

Security vehicles, sirens screaming, raced through streets to the capital's heights where the attack took place. The area was cordoned off by paramilitary police, witnesses said. Firemen hosed down the road round the blackened remnants of a car.

Metal shutters of three nearby shops were twisted and blackened by the blast. "I thought it was an earthquake," said a young man who lives in the area overlooking the Mediterranean.

An executive with a Western oil firm based in the area of the attack said: "There was an extremely loud explosion near the

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Assad and Abu Jaber hold talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held talks Saturday on Palestinian evictees and the Middle East peace process with Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber.

Officials and diplomats said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa was present at the meeting and would hold more talks with Dr. Abu Jaber on a U.N. Security Council formula aimed at defusing the expellee crisis which has hindered the resumption of peace talks.

The Syrian-Jordanian talks are part of a series of contacts among Arabs involved in the peace process prior to next week's tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Jordan's Ambassador in Damascus Naveel Al Hadid also attended the talks.

Upon arriving in Damascus, Dr. Abu Jaber said his talks here with Syrian officials would cover Jordanian-Syrian relations, the situation in the Middle East, the Middle East peace talks and the issue of Palestinian expellees.

He told the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) that he would discuss the U.N. Security Council statement accepting the return of the expellees in stages with the objective of coordinating the Jordanian and Syrian stands on the issue.

Israeli lawmakers to appeal destruction of Gaza homes

KHAN YOUNIS, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — An Arab member of Israel's parliament Saturday told Palestinians whose homes were rocketed by Israeli troops he would appeal to the high court to stop the destruction of Arab homes.

"The Israelis destroyed these houses not for security reasons but just to satisfy the Israeli people," said Taleb Al Sanah, who represents the Arab Democratic List.

"I'm going to appeal to the high court to stop the demolition of houses," he said on a visit to the site of damaged and destroyed homes in the occupied Gaza Strip.

The army fired rockets at 20 Palestinian homes Thursday in what it described as an operation to arrest wanted activists.

Faisal Al Husseini, adviser to the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks, told 35 Palestinian families made homeless in the attack that the army's action was "a war against civilians."

About 100 Palestinians, sup-

porters of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas which opposes peace talks, with Israel, surrounded Mr. Husseini, chanting Hamas slogans.

"Peace-seekers are seekers of dreams. You are drowning in dreams," they shouted.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency said it was going to distribute \$26,000 among the homeless families, as well as food and tents. The families are presently living with relatives.

Soldiers shot and wounded 11 Palestinians in clashes on Friday night, Palestinian sources said. The army confirmed four Palestinians were wounded.

The Israeli military commander of the Gaza Strip said Saturday that soldiers dispersing violent demonstrations have sometimes "accidentally" shot children.

Brigadier General Yom-Tov Samiya was asked about the killing of children and Palestinian youths in an interview with Israeli army radio.

Kabul forces push rebels out of western stronghold

KABUL (Agencies) — The Islamic government tightened its grip on the battle-weary Afghan capital Saturday, pushing rival Shiite rebels from their stronghold in western Kabul.

At least 1,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed since the fighting started Jan. 19 between government troops and the fundamentalist group Hezb-e-Islami and its ally, the Iranian-backed Hezb-e-Wahdat.

Hospital officials estimate another 4,000 people have been wounded and tens of thousands more have fled the city.

Doctors in Kabul say the exact death toll will never be known because most Afghans bury their dead immediately in keeping with strict Islamic tradition.

Government soldiers moving into abandoned Hezb-e-Wahdat positions Saturday found the remains of four hostages who had been killed and partly burned by fleeing Shiite rebels, witnesses said.

Angry government soldiers, who discovered the dead, cursed Hezb-e-Wahdat chief Abdul Ali Mazari.

"This is his work. Even the Russians never behaved like this," shouted Mullah Izzatullah, a former guerrilla commander.

Since taking power from the former Soviet-backed, guerrilla

groups, deeply divided along religious, ethnic and tribal lines, have turned their weapons on one another.

Hezb-e-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Hezb-e-Wahdat, which represents Afghanistan's minority Shiite Muslims, have vowed to destroy the city unless President Burhanuddin Rabbani resigns.

In fighting Saturday, witnesses said Shiite rebels shot at government troops trying to rescue a 60-year-old woman wounded and bleeding outside a grain silo. Two soldiers ran behind an armoured personnel carrier and slowly dragged the woman to safety.

Government spokesman Abdul Qanooni said a former communist, Ali Kodayadard, had negotiated an alliance between Mr. Hekmatyar's forces and Hezb-e-Wahdat troops.

Several members of the most radical wing of Afghanistan's disbanded Communist Party joined Mr. Hekmatyar when Muslim insurgents overran the capital and took power.

On the 26th day of fighting, most fire was concentrated on and around Sher Darwaza Hill, which has a commanding view over the city centre and is the site of the ancient Kabul Wall.

"We captured Sher Darwaza at 12:15 midnight last night but we

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Peace talks have reached a turning-point — Ashrawi

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The time has come "to admit that certain legal and moral questions have to be addressed in this peace process," according to Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, who says that continued Palestinian participation is contingent on "creating circumstances" which will enable the delegation to return to the table.

During a press briefing sponsored by the National Association of Arab Americans here Friday, Dr. Ashrawi said that from the Palestinian perspective, peace talks "have been at a standstill since mid-December," and no dates have been set for resuming either multilateral or bilateral talks.

Although discussions are still ongoing as to the conditions that will enable all parties to return, she said "the Palestinians will not resume negotiations without further action by the United Nations or the Israeli government." "I'm not maneuvering here. We're not playing games. These are serious issues at stake," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters.

The manner of implementation is up to the Security Council, but U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 "has to be implemented to ensure the rule of law in our region and respect for Security Council resolutions."

Dr. Ashrawi said that while Palestinians are committed to the peace process and have worked very hard to sustain it, "we have reached a moment of truth."

"This critical phase encapsulates in a sense, summarises — all the problems that we've been having."

She pointed out that "yesterday in Khan Yunis, 12 houses were demolished using anti-tank missiles, and eight others were seriously damaged."



Hanan Ashrawi

"Every day we see people whose children have been killed... we get capsules, letters from prison talking about torture and maltreatment. Every day we have to see families who have lost a relative. Every day we have to see houses being demolished, with people losing everything."

She said the question of human rights and of expulsions shows that the present process "has neither been a vehicle for change, nor has it brought about new perceptions in terms of the region, and we cannot continue with business as usual."

Dr. Ashrawi said her visit to the United States was "to establish contact with the new administration," present the Palestinian position on several issues, and to urge the start of "a new phase" in the process.

One of the serious flaws of the peace process, she said, has been that there is no binding timetable to move the process forward and accomplish what has been agreed upon.

She said that dates which have been set are viewed as a target date and not as a deadline, adding, "Of course you are going to end up with Israeli attempts at prolonging, and this is what has happened."

Dr. Ashrawi said all of the U.S. officials with whom she met have given "a definite commitment that this is a priority issue on their agenda," that the U.S. does not condone nor will it accept deportation, and that "they are willing to work with us to regenerate the process."

The Palestinian delegation will be meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he comes to occupied Jerusalem, she said. "But I think it will be very important to implement 799 before Secretary Christopher goes to the region so that the talks will deal with the peace process rather than again with expulsions and human rights."

Asked what fundamental changes the Palestinian delegation is advocating, Dr. Ashrawi said there are "serious substantive issues" of disagreement about the scope of the negotiations, such as territoriality (including East Jerusalem), security, legislation, the settlements, and "the interlock," or transitional stage on permanent status and transfer of authority.

Asked if the issue of East Jerusalem is not too explosive an issue to be part of permanent negotiations, Dr. Ashrawi said that "not a single country in the world... with the exception of Costa Rica... accepted the unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem, including the U.S."

"The Israelis say East Jerusalem is a sensitive and explosive issue. So what?" Dr. Ashrawi remarked. "The occupation itself is sensitive and explosive... Human lives are sensitive issues, as far as we are concerned, and we want to discuss all this."



PROTEST IN CHICAGO: Omar Jarad (left) and his brother Anas (on shoulders of unidentified protester) demonstrate with several hundred Arab-Americans on Friday against the detention of their father Mohammad Jarad by the Israeli government. Mohammad Jarad is one of three American citizens of Arab origin held by Israeli authorities for alleged links with the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas (AFP photo)

Four executed in Algeria

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Four Muslim fundamentalists were executed but eight others had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment, the Justice Ministry, quoted by Algiers radio, said Friday. It did not say when.

Those executed included a man called "Tayeb the Afghan," sentenced to death with nine others for a raid on a frontier post in 1991 in which three soldiers were killed and mutilated.

The radio did not say whether appeals for mercy had been granted for the eight other condemned men, whose appeal was rejected by the supreme court last month.

In January Algeria executed two other fundamentalists — the first death penalties carried out in a year during which courts have condemned 48 men to death. Executions are usually carried out at dawn by firing squad.

Prime Minister Belaid Abdul

Salam said Thursday that "an iron fist will strike" fundamentalists who pursued violence against the state.

A military court sentenced the men last May in the Sahara Desert town of Ouargla.

The court was told that men in turbans attacked the post by night shouting "Allahu Akbar."

One soldier described how guardsman Ahmad Kesri was found dead. "His brains were burst open, with his severed genitals in his mouth," soldier Ali Chiboub said.

Prosecutor Captain Abdul Karim Boualef told reporters during the trial: "It was more than an assassination, their bodies were mutilated with knives and swords."

He sought death sentences against 15 of the 62 men on trial. The court sentenced 13 to death, acquitted 16 and gave the others

prison terms from four years to life.

The month after the attack, the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) took a massive lead in general elections.

But the authorities cancelled the second round of voting in January 1992 and later outlawed the FIS.

Guns have since launched a guerrilla campaign against the security forces.

An official human rights group last week said at least 250 members of the security forces have been killed along with about 350 guerrillas and civilians.

Early this week the authorities extended indefinitely a state of emergency which was due to expire last Tuesday.

Algiers and six surrounding districts have been under night curfew since Dec. 5.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemen appeals for emergency aid

SANAA (AP) — Prime Minister Haider Al Attas Friday appealed for financial help to rebuild southern regions, devastated by floods. Eighteen people died and thousands were left homeless in the recent floods, described as the country's worst in 30 years. Mr. Attas' appeal was broadcast by the state television after a trip to the stricken region. He estimated the damage at two billion riyals (\$125 million). "The entire infrastructure of public utilities has completely gone, and all needs to be rebuilt," he said in his appeal. Yemen, a country of 14 million, is among the poorest in the Arab World. Its economic woes increased after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis when its main bankrollers in the Gulf suspended the cash flow in retaliation for its pro-Iraq stance.

Earthquake shakes western Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — An earthquake shook the Algerian province of Tipaza, about 60 kilometres west of the capital, on Friday, the official news agency APS said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. According to the geophysical research centre, the quake registered 4.1 on the Richter scale, powerful enough to cause heavy damage in a populated area. An aftershock registering 2.2 on the scale followed five minutes later, the agency said.

Cyprus to spend \$200m on Larnaca airport

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus, visited by 1.5 million tourists last year, said Friday it planned to spend more than \$200 million to expand Larnaca airport, the busiest on the island. Communications Minister Renos Stavarakis said the project would be complete by the end of 1997 and would nearly double capacity from 3.5 million to six million passengers a year. Two French companies, Sofreavia and Aeroprojet, Paris, have been awarded the 3.2 million Cyprus pound (\$6.4 million) contract to prepare the architectural drawings and supervise construction. The contracts were signed Friday and the designs will be completed within 14 months. They will provide for a new passenger terminal, a new control tower, a new cargo terminal and extension of the runway. "The project will cost about 100 million Cyprus pounds (\$200 million). Construction is scheduled to begin in 1994 and should be completed by the end of 1997," Mr. Stavarakis told reporters. Larnaca airport, on the southern coast, was built after Turkish troops occupied the northern third of Cyprus in 1974. A smaller airport near Paphos on the southwestern coast is used primarily for charter flights.

Rushdie proposed for French doctorate

PARIS (R) — British writer Salman Rushdie could be given an honorary doctorate in France, but might be prevented from collecting it because of Iran's threat on his life, French officials said Friday. Education and Culture Minister Jack Lang said he had approved a proposal, sponsored by the human rights league, from some 100 French professors that their universities grant Mr. Rushdie the award. The hitch is that France has denied entry to Mr. Rushdie since he was sentenced to death by Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini four years ago for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses." Mr. Rushdie told French television by satellite on Thursday his requests for private visits to France were turned down. "They were turned down three times, without any satisfactory explanation, contrary to the law," he said. "I was given to understand that I would not get any help although I need it." Foreign ministry sources said Mr. Rushdie applied to visit France during or after the Gulf war. Authorities feared at the time his presence could cause tension with the Muslim community. As a citizen of a European Community country, Mr. Rushdie is legally entitled to enter France freely. But he needs round the clock protection because of the Iranian threat. "I suppose that great precautions need to be taken for his life and that of other people," Mr. Lang told television. "I hope he will come some day. As soon as possible, I hope," Mr. Rushdie has stepped up appearances and trips abroad. In the past year, he has visited nine countries to seek support.

Woman beheaded for murdering husband

RIYADH (AP) — A woman convicted of murdering her husband was beheaded Friday in the southwestern region of Adha, the Interior Ministry announced. The woman, identified as Goma Bint Abdul Khalik Al Ghambi, told the Islamic court during trial that she killed her husband, "because she did not want him as he was old," the statement said. Her age and that of her late husband were not disclosed. Describing the murder, the statement said the woman used her husband's rifle to shoot him in his sleep, then dragged his body to the kitchen and set it alight. It was not clear when the murder took place. The nationality of the woman was not specified, a normal practice when the convict is a Saudi.

Belgian troops disarm 13 Somalis

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian troops with the United Nations force in Somalia detained and disarmed 13 Somali militia fighters near Kismayu port, a Belgian Defence Ministry spokesman said Friday. The fighters, from the militia led by General Mohammad Said Hersi, known as Gen. Morgan, were driving an armed vehicle known as a "technical" when they were intercepted by a patrol of Belgian paratroopers, the spokesman said. The men, who were outside the zone designated for Sen. Morgan's forces, were handed over to the U.S. army to take them back to their area. The technical was destroyed.

Moroccan stuck for 6 months at Belgian airport

BRUSSELS (R) — A Moroccan seeking political asylum in Belgium has spent most of the past six months in the transit zone of Brussels's international airport, an interior ministry official said Friday. The man, named by the official only as Seqal, arrived in Belgium last September without documents via the port of Ghent and claimed to be a Moroccan. Belgium turned down his request for political asylum and sent him back to Morocco. But Morocco sent him back to Belgium after he told the authorities he was of Israeli nationality. Once back in Belgium, he claimed again he was Moroccan and appealed to the country's council of state to quash the decision to extradite him. The official said that Seqal was moved to a more comfortable location in the transit zone Friday, pending the outcome of the state council's decision and an investigation by the Moroccan authorities.

Famine and war kill in silence in Sudan

By Pauline Jelinek
The Associated Press

KONGOR, Sudan — Flying kilometres and kilometres over scrub and pasture land, the first thing you notice is that there are no cows.

And then at a dirt airstrip, where the starving gather near an arriving relief plane, there are few men.

And almost no babies. The currents of the White Nile River and Sudan's bloody politics have swept much of the life from this area 400 kilometres north of the Kenyan border.

They brought 10 years of war, months of flooding, two failed crops — and famine and disease.

But people here have suffered quietly.

While international attention and aid have rescued some of the starving of neighbouring Somalia and Ethiopia, Kongor and many other areas in war-torn southern Sudan have been off-limits to relief workers.

"There are areas which are tragic," said Rob Hadley, 30, a British spokesman for the United Nations. "When we find them we can do something about it. If we can't get in, we don't know what we're going to find."

Late last year, the United Nations won agreement from warring rebels and the government to permit relief workers into more areas in south Sudan.

That brought a relief flight into Kongor in December for

the first time in more than a year.

To the airstrip eight kilometres out of town came emaciated, weakened and rag-clothed Dinka, members of a herding tribe whose livelihood, society and religion are grounded in their crops and highly prized cattle.

Food was airlifted in several times in January. And as word spread, more needy have arrived to meet each flight.

"We used to eat the leaf of the thorn tree," said Martha Ajok who lost three of her nine children to starvation and disease. She was one of more than 400 people who walked from nearby mud huts to meet a recent flight. "But now the leaves are eaten up and there are just thorns."

"We ate water lilies when it was raining," said her neighbour, Mary Achol. "But now the rains are finished and the lilies are hard to find."

On her shoulders, Ms. Achol carried her son Gabriel, a dazed child of 10 no bigger than an average boy of five. His ribs showed through thin flesh. His arms and legs were only as big as the grip of a baseball bat. His gums were bloody sores. His eyelids, barely open, were covered with flies.

Some people had swollen bellies. Many had sores on their heads, hands or feet, which relief workers said were scabies. Others com-

plained of rashes, fever and malaria. They had no medicine.

Sudan has been rent since 1983 by civil war.

At first it was a war of rebels against the government in the north for more autonomy and a greater share of the country's wealth for the south.

But in 1992 the rebel movement split into two factions, each still opposed to the government in Khartoum, but now engaged in killing each other.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians have died from the fighting and famine in southern Sudan and many more are displaced. Both the government and the rebels have used food as a weapon, keeping it for their own or keeping it out of the hands of their rivals.

Mr. Hadley, the U.N. spokesman, said the recent agreement by rebels and the government to open up new areas for humanitarian aid shipments will help, if they hold to their promises.

But it's shaky. Rebels two weeks ago halted a barge carrying food to the south and stole its cargo of 2,400 tonnes, Mr. Hadley said.

In Kongor, natural disaster has added to the disasters of war. Fed by a number of permanent and seasonal rivers and tributaries of the Nile, the surrounding land is swampy in some areas and dry in others. In the wet season the Dinka traditionally live away

from the flooding, where they can plant millet and other crops, and in the dry season they move to pasture land so their cattle can feed.

But massive flooding in early 1991 prevented planting and destroyed what would have been two subsequent harvests.

Later that year, the rebels split into two factions, dividing more or less along tribal lines between the Dinka and the Nuer tribe.

In the fighting, many Dinka were killed, their cattle stolen or killed and their villages ransacked or abandoned.

"We have no seeds to plant again," said Ms. Achol. "The (rebels) took them and burned some and threw others in the water."

"And they took our cattle to make us suffer," said Ms. Achol.

Aid officials estimate that the local population has dwindled to 30,000 from two or three times that many before the war.

"Our husbands have died because of the problems — or they ran away," Ms. Ajok said. "They left us with the kids."

"The kids, as a result, have no food. They have just died, one after the other," she said. The group of more than 400 who greeted the recent relief plane was comprised of women, teenage boys and girls and dozens and dozens of children — but only three or four babies or toddlers. And there were only a few



A Sudanese refugee prepares food in front of her tent in a refugee camp in Juba, 1,200 kilometres from Khartoum (AFP photo)

dozen men.

Kongor area once was an agricultural centre where about 140,000 head of livestock grazed and were traded, aid workers said. Not a single animal was seen by journalists accompanying the recent flight.

"Ever since the war started

we have been just depending on pure relief," said Maluin Deng who has been caring for his seven children since his first wife died and second fled to another town.

"Whenever a plane comes in, that's what we've got," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Reves d'enfants
17:40 Les Clés de Fort Boyard
17:50 News French
18:15 Le Journal de l'histoire
18:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Who's the Boss
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:20 Law and Order

PRAYER TIMES

04:58 Fajr
06:16 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:50 Dhuhr
14:56 'Asr
17:24 Maghrib
18:42 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swerfish Tel. 810721
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632783
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637441
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622646

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441
Anglican Church Tel. 638511, Tel. 626343
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 711751
Armenian International Church Tel. 633326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675491

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:
It will be cold, cloudy and rainy, with snow falling on areas 900 metres and more above sea level. Winds will be westerly moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with scattered showers expected, while winds will be southerly fresh and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 0/4
Aqaba 7/14
Deserts 2/7
Jordan Valley 6/11

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Shabana Imam 753774
Dr. Anwar Al Ashab 602507
Dr. Fakhri Tayeb 883800
Dr. Mohammed Mousa 741444
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 780336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Narmash pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shneicani pharmacy 637660
Najih pharmacy 847623
Fildil circle pharmacy 813141
Samir pharmacy 661898
Tahar pharmacy 621366
Ya'ash pharmacy 624425
Al Alaa pharmacy 777112
Al Azawi pharmacy 855681
Hisham pharmacy 711957

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 751212
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 874667
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 121
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 010230
Overseas Calls 010230

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 81341/333
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity 64241/2
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeicani 664171/4
Shmeicani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845045
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672278
The Islamic, Abidali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abidali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/28
Army, Marfa 89161/115
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (011)3300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:25 Larnaca (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:00 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:50 London (RJ)
11:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
11:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30 Rome (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
11:30 Vienna (RJ)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Cairo (GF)
09:30 Bahrain (GF)
10:30 Moscow (SU)
10:30 Larnaca (CY)
10:30 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
06:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
06:45 Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)
06:45 Rome (RJ)
06:45 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
06:45 Athens (RJ)
06:45 Riyadh (RJ)
06:45 Jeddah (RJ)
06:45 Damascus (RJ)
06:45 New Delhi (RJ)
06:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
06:45 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
06:45 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Beirut, Rome (AZ)
09:30 Cairo (ME)
09:30 Doha, Muscat (GF)
09:30 Moscow (SU)
09:30 Larnaca (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apples 700/500
Bananas 700/200
Bananas (Makassar) 640/640
Beans 650/450
Cabbages 180/100
Carrots 250/180
Cauliflowers 210/180
Cucumbers (large) 150/80
Cucumbers (small) 300/250
Eggplants 320/220
Garlic 650/550
Grapefruit 180/120
Lemon 270/200
Marrow (large) 200/100
Marrow (small) 140/80
Mint 80
Onion (dry) 210/180
Onion (green) 240/180
Orange 240/180
Pepper (hot) 400/60
Pepper (sweet) 360/280
Pepper (sweet) 180/120
Tomato 250/200
Spinach 130/60
240/180

هكذا من الأمل

Jordanian delegates meet Azerbaijan president

(U) (Petra) — On the third of a tour of newly independent Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union, the Jordanian delegation Saturday met with Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Aliyev.

Head of the Jordanian delegation Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein on establishing bilateral relations and future cooperation in all fields.

During the talks, a proposal was made to create a joint committee to organise and normalise flow of trade between the two countries and initiate economic

cooperation. President Aliyev also voiced his country's total support for Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Palestine question, demanding the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The delegation arrived in Baku from Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, where they held similar talks.

The delegation is expected to sign an agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations with Azerbaijan and issue a joint communiqué summing up the minutes of their talks before flying Sunday to Tashkent capital of Uzbekistan.

Medical education meetings Focus on school curricula

(J.T.) — Delegates representing 14 medical institutions in 10 Near Eastern countries gathered at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) for a two-day symposium on medical education.

Organised by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and JUST, the symposium will discuss various medical schools' curricula and ways of overcoming the problems that impede their development.

UNICEF Regional Director for North Africa and the Middle East Edward Lamert told the opening session that UNICEF is dedicating its efforts towards reducing infant mortality rates.

Mr. Lamert said UNICEF was aiming to implement programmes designed to provide health protection to mothers and chil-

dren. He underlined the importance of educating women as a means of reducing infant mortality, adding that simple prevention methods could be adopted to save mothers and infants from diseases.

The meeting was opened by JUST President Kamel Ajlouni. Dr. Ajlouni said the two-day gathering offered an excellent opportunity for the delegates to exchange views and learn more about methods to protect human life.

Saad Hijazi of JUST and Ismat Izzat from Egypt each delivered speeches on the need to change medical education curricula in order to bring it in line with the needs of society.

The delegates will also review a set of studies by UNICEF on ways to protect the health of mothers and infants.



Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abul Ragheb opens handicrafts exhibit in Amman, Saturday.

Handicraft exhibit opens to benefit blind women

(J.T.) — The National Society for the Welfare of Blind Women in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, Saturday opened a handicrafts exhibit at the Amman Art Gallery.

The exhibit, titled "Al Amal" (The Hope), was inaugurated by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abul Ragheb. It includes a variety of handicrafts, including brocade, embroidery, and other traditional Jordanian crafts.

Mr. Ragheb said the society also plans to establish a library system and a data centre to serve all blind people in the Kingdom. The exhibit is at the Amman Hotel.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Abul Ragheb discusses energy with UNDP official

(J.T.) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abul Ragheb met Saturday with the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan, Ibrahim Hashem. Mr. Hashem and Mr. Ragheb discussed ways of enhancing cooperation between the ministry and the United Nations in energy-related fields.

Korean deputies meet speakers of Parliament

(J.T.) — A North Korean parliamentary delegation led by Yang Hyong Sop Saturday voiced their country's support for the rights of the Palestinian people and demanded the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 which requires the repatriation of the 416 Palestinian expellees. Mr. Yang Sop met with the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and reviewed Jordanian North Korean relations and Middle East developments.

Judiciary panel approves education draft law

(J.T.) — The Judiciary Committee of the Lower House of Parliament approved Saturday the education draft law which was referred to it by the House Education Committee with several amendments. In another development, the House Agriculture Committee will meet Sunday to discuss the 1973 Agriculture Law.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.

Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Syrian artist Nazir Nab'ah at Baladna Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by the late Syrian artist Alfred Hatmal at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhais city.

Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United Arab Emirates — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Saba Noursi and Afaf Nayfeh — at the Abdel Hameed Showman Foundation Gallery in Amman, between the First and Second Circles.

Exhibition of photographs by Jean-Philippe Reverdet at the French Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Hayat Jamil Hafez at Alia Art Gallery.



Red Cross, Crescent to open regional office in Amman

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will open a regional office in Amman next month in implementation of an agreement signed with the Jordanian government in December 1992, according to Mohammad Hadid, President of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS).

Suleiman Elghamry, head of the federation's North Africa and Middle East desk in Geneva, Saturday concluded five days of talks with Dr. Hadid and the JNRCS to prepare for the formal opening of the regional office by the beginning of March, Dr. Hadid said.

Mr. Elghamry who left Amman for Geneva Saturday was quoted as saying that the regional office will conduct operations to benefit all the countries of the region, but will place emphasis on Iraq.

He said the office will organise relief supplies including food and drugs for the Iraqi people.

By year's end, the regional office will also be supervising work in Iran and Afghanistan, plus the five newly independent Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union, Dr. Hadid added.

Dr. Hadid said the federation also plans to establish hospitals in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He said Amman was chosen for the state of the regional office in view of the remarkable activities of the JNRCS, its geographic location, and facilities Jordan offers to international organisations.

Most Jordanian and Palestinian teachers keep their positions in Saudi Arabia

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite the strain of political relations with Jordan, Saudi Arabia did not resort to dismissing Jordanian and Palestinian teachers working at Saudi schools except in cases where individuals were found "incompetent" or involved in internal Saudi politics, diplomatic sources and observers said Saturday.

"There has been no significant drop in the number of Jordanian and Palestinian teachers in Saudi Arabia in the wake of the Gulf crisis," said an Arab diplomatic source. "It was around 4,000 in July 1990 (immediately prior to the beginning of the Gulf crisis) and it remains around the same figure today."

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan

Hindawi appeared to agree with the assertion.

"We haven't heard anything to indicate there was a change in the status of Jordanian teachers in Saudi Arabia at any point," he told the Jordan Times.

The comments came in response to reports in London-based Arabic-language papers that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia had issued a decree "reinstating" 458 Palestinian and Jordanian teachers whose contracts "were terminated" by the Saudi Ministry of Education after "mediation" by Emir Salman Ben Abdul Aziz, the king's brother and emir of Riyadh.

The reports suggested that the decree came after a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official offered a public "apology" to Saudi Arabia for

the seemingly pro-Iraqi position adopted by the PLO in the Gulf crisis.

Political ties between Saudi Arabia and Jordan were also strained in the wake of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait after Amman rejected the military option to reverse the Iraqi move into the emirate and called for a solution to the crisis within the Arab context.

But, according to the diplomatic source, the Saudi authorities had kept such considerations out of their decisions to renew or terminate contracts of Jordanian and Palestinian teachers.

"Hiring of Jordanian and Palestinian teachers to work at Saudi institutions was an area which was notably kept out of politics," said the source. Since then, reports have

appeared off and on suggesting that the Saudi government, as well as private sector employers, was not renewing the contracts of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates.

Observers said there were a few cases of such terminations in the past two years, but not enough to indicate a concerted Saudi policy to dramatically reduce the number of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in the kingdom.

According to the diplomatic source, there are over 300,000 Jordanians and Palestinians working in Saudi Arabia without any problems "outside the normal circumstances and conditions attached to employment contracts as applicable to any other expatriate living in Saudi Arabia."

Similarly, "entering contracts with teachers or renewing them depends entirely on the needs of Saudi schools; annual renewals of contracts are mostly automatic except in cases where the concerned individual is found not up to the required professional standards or involved himself in the internal affairs of Saudi Arabia."

Only a dozen or so cases of Jordanian and Palestinian teachers being dismissed after they "interfered in Saudi affairs" were reported in the last several years, said the source. "Contracts of a few others were terminated since they were found incompetent."

"If those who lost their jobs as a result of such decision opt to paint their cases as political, there is nothing anyone can do about it," added the source.

Suspects in Irbid murder admit guilt

AMMAN (J.T.) — Irbid police have apprehended two suspects in the murder of a guest worker more than 10 months after the crime was committed.

Brigadier Hashem Al Qaisi, director of the Irbid Police Department, told a press conference that the two male suspects in the slaying of Shaker Ayad Masaad, whose body was found on a farm near Kufi Yuba on April 3, 1992 have been arrested, and they have admitted to committing the crime.

The two men, whose identities have been withheld, were said to live in caves and used to work in construction.

The victim also was a construction worker and had befriended the two suspects, according to Brigadier Qaisi.

He said residents had complained lately of thefts and robberies, prompting the police to suspect the two men living in the caves.

The police placed the two men under strict surveillance until they were caught stealing, the brigadier said. Under interrogation the suspects admitted to killing Masaad, he said.

Brig. Qaisi said Masaad was stabbed with a switch-blade when the two men tried to rob him.

Poor quality delays textbooks — ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — Several factors, including unsuitable texts, tardy printers and author-cancelled contracts contributed to the delay in distributing textbooks at the start of the school year, said a Ministry of Education statement Saturday.

Director of the Ministry's Curricula Department Ahmad Hiyasat said the ministry had contracted a number of authors from the University of Jordan, the Jordan Academy of Arabic and Yarmouk University long before the start of the school year 1992-93.

But when the textbooks were submitted, the ministry's Educational Council found them to be unsuitable, especially in the

elementary level, and decided they should be changed, Dr. Hiyasat said.

He said, in addition, some authors cancelled their contracts and printing presses were late in delivering a number of the new books.

The delays affected mainly science and social studies textbooks, he added.

Dr. Hiyasat explained that the Educational Council, normally puts new school textbooks through a two-year trial period to determine whether or not they satisfy the needs of the students. Should they prove suitable, they are adopted, otherwise, they are amended or replaced, he said.

The Ministry of Education is currently overhauling the nation's educational system.

The introduction of new textbooks, upgrading the qualifications and proficiencies of teachers and building new schools complete with appropriate educational facilities are part of the overhaul process, according to Dr. Hiyasat.

Director of the National Centre for Educational Research and Development Victor Billeh, said the ministry is attempting to replace those books which are dull and do not stimulate creativity and initiative in the students.

The new books are intended to present the subject in an attractive manner, he added.

Dr. Billeh said the World Bank, the Jordanian government and Japan co-financed the first stage of the overhauling process from 1990-1993.

The next stage, from 1994-1997, will witness the introduction of new curricula for the secondary school level, including new textbooks and amendments to the examination system in the country, Dr. Billeh said.

He said there are also plans to establish more schools to help the ministry dispose of the two-shift system.

Dr. Billeh said, the ministry plans to announce tenders for the construction of 150 schools before the end of 1993.

Two new free zones to boost trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two new free zones will be created in Jordan before the year's end in order to boost trade and earn the country additional hard currency, according to Director of the Jordanian Free Zones Corporation (JFZC) Fahad Al Qudah.

Mr. Qudah was quoted by Agence France Presse (AFP) as saying that the country has two free zones, one at Zarqa established in 1983 and another at the port of Aqaba established in 1973.

Last year the free zones earned Jordan JD \$6.5 million; a 21 per cent increase over the previous year, Mr. Qudah said.

He added that goods weighing 1.05 million tonnes were brought into the free zones in 1992; a 34 per cent increase over last year.

He said 226 new investors established businesses in the two zones last year, and about 650 more are expected this year since there are increased indications that the sanctions against Iraq would soon end.

After the sanctions on Iraq are lifted the bulk of Iraq's trade will again pass through Jordan, Mr. Qudah added.

He said before the sanctions, as many as 300 trucks used to commute daily between Jordan and Iraq, transporting goods to Iraqi markets from Aqaba. Today only 70 to 80 trucks make the same journey, Mr. Qudah said.

The two new free zones will be located at Sahab Industrial City, southeast of Amman and at Queen Alia International Airport (QAI).

Danish specialists check Jordan's dumping sites

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is facing a serious problem in disposing solid waste and is enlisting the help of a specialised team from Denmark, according to Abdul Razzak Tubeishat, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Speaking after a meeting with the team of specialists from the Danish Ministry of Environment, Dr. Tubeishat said the Danish specialists will tour garbage dump sites in Zarqa, Mafrag, Irbid, Salt, Maan and Tafleeh before submitting a report on their findings and a plan of action.

In their tours, the specialists will meet officials as well as citizens and will make thorough studies of the sites before concluding an agreement with the ministry on bilateral cooperation in environmental protection and the disposal of solid waste, the minister said.

Jordan continues to face the problem of transporting solid waste which pollutes the environment, and plans to provide the



Abdul Razzak Tubeishat

local councils with specially-equipped garbage trucks, Dr. Tubeishat added.

Following the meeting, the Danish team visited the garbage dumping site in Ruseifa.

They talked with Ruseifa Mayor Mousa Al Saad who told them that the site has been causing increased public concern because of its foul-smelling emissions, especially in summer.

Kabul forces

(Continued from page 1)
released the hill for military reasons," Hezb-e-Islami commander Zalmai told Reuters by telephone.

He said 13 government soldiers and two Hezb-e-Islami fighters were killed in Friday's battle for the government-held hill. Hezb-e-Islami captured tanks and heavy weapons, he said.

It was unclear side held the hill Saturday.

Many of the rockets, fired at intervals of just one minute, appeared to miss their military targets and ploughed into residential areas of the old city at the foot of the hill, causing many casualties, hospitals said.

The Jahmuriat Hospital in the city centre admitted 21 injured and three dead in the morning.

Five rockets slammed into the compound of the presidential palace, killing one man who was almost sliced in half by shrapnel. Palace guards shouted to a reporter to take cover as more rockets screamed overhead.

Terrified residents were escaping parts of the city coming under fire to take refuge in safer districts.

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Nature's perfect balance explodes

By Ica Wabbbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Heralding the spring we are eagerly awaiting, the paintings of Iraqi artist Hayat Jamil Hafez offer a glimpse of the blessed season, of nature exploding in splashes of dazzling colours.

The water colours, of small and medium size, reveal a mastery of technique that is difficult to match.

The lines flow easily, meeting and parting, always in tender caress, never jarring the eye of the aesthete.

The painter competes with nature in the choice of the chroma: from dark purples to satin ivory no shade was omitted.

Trees seem to fascinate the artist: from single ones in blossom or rusty-leaved, to groves and forests celebrating various seasons, the trees from a big part of Ms. Hafez's works.

And as testimony of her place of birth, the palm tree is almost



Princess Nafsa Bint Ali and Hayat Jamil Hafez tour the Iraqi artist's exhibition of paintings at Alia Art Gallery

omnipresent, as are the dates the palms team with.

The luxuriant vegetation is all-including. Flowers, whether wild and passionately coloured or landscaped or sensibly arranged in vases, could easily be a botanist's guide.

All in Ms. Hafez's works is about communion with nature, about the overpowering influence it has on our life.

Human presence is represented in its most basic acts: picking fruit, milking a cow, reaping crops.

And not to antagonise in any way the fecund nature she so exuberantly depicts, the artist has only women present in her canvases, to complement and enhance the fertility exuding from her work.

The feeling of serenity descending upon the viewer is complete, the artist has accomplished a delicate mission: attuning man's chaotic life to nature's perfect balance.

The exhibition, inaugurated on Feb. 10 at Alia Art Gallery, is running till Feb. 19, 1993.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Sales tax should be approved

It is only natural that every tax has its costs and benefits. However, the sales tax now under consideration should not be judged solely on its direct merits, in isolation of the specific circumstances of Jordan's economic situation.

The sales tax, in our case, is an integral part of the economic adjustment programme, which Jordan adopted in the last quarter of 1991. Killing the tax law is a blow against the programme as agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Therefore, before trying to evaluate the costs and benefits of the draft law, a central question must be answered: Are we willing to go ahead with the programme and reap its fruits or to abandon the programme with all the disastrous consequences that will follow?

The programme has been, thus far, a wonderful success. The Jordanian economy exceeded most of the targets set in the programme and proved once more its vitality. Decisions can be made in Jordan and carried out more efficiently than the IMF experts thought or hoped. Financial self-sufficiency became a feasible target around the corner. Would we sacrifice all this because certain segments of the business community are afraid that the sales tax may take from them more than the consumption tax used to?

The other question is whether the Jordanian economy can withstand the serious consequences of the cancellation or failure of the programme, such as a refusal by the Paris Club to go on rescheduling our debts over 20 years with 10 years grace, and the possible loss of all foreign aid from the industrial countries and the international institutions and funds, which is flowing now in the form of grants and soft loans.

Those are not side issues that we can worry about in the future. They are crucial questions that the future of the Jordanian economy depends upon, for years to come. Can we do without rescheduling and fresh assistance? Can we afford to watch our reserves of foreign exchange melt down in a matter of months? Are we ready to sacrifice the present stability of the exchange rate, to relinquish the atmosphere of public confidence and go back to the precarious climate of 1988/1989?

Some populist commentators, light politicians, and fervent deputies may say "yes, to hell with the programme". But such a blunder can be committed only out of sheer ignorance, indifference towards Jordan and its future, rejection of the very notion of economic reform or willful desire to keep Jordan economically dependent forever.

I don't claim that the sales tax is a magic solution to all our ills,

but I do believe that the tax is reasonable and tolerable in view of the following facts:

— The tax is neutral. It will replace the consumption tax and will not increase the proceeds to raise the overall tax burden.
— The sales tax will be applicable to more commodities than the consumption tax. This means that the burden will be distributed among more commodities and certain services, which are more just and equitable. The consumer will not be hurt as long as the tax is neutral. The cost of some commodities and services may rise, but the cost of others will decline. In a competitive market, importers and producers will not be able to carry the whole tax forward to the consumer. The cost of living index is not expected to exceed 4.5 per cent in 1993 despite the imposition of sales tax and the reduction of some subsidies. We used to live with a double digit inflation rate, we definitely can live with a lower inflation rate.

— The basic food commodities and the necessities of babies and students will be zero rated, i.e. tax exempt.
Wednesday our deputies will debate the issue. They are urged to take a responsible stand. The Parliament has already given its blessing to the adjustment programme, it should stand by its word and say yes to self-sufficiency and financial independence in five years, and approve the draft law.

Enter hypocrisy at U.N.

IN ADDITION to constituting a striking departure from the established jurisprudence of the U.N., the Security Council's declaration Friday endorsing the Israeli-U.S. compromise formula on the Palestinian evacuees reeks of double standards and hypocrisy. According to the new interpretation, the Israeli-U.S. formula to defuse the crisis over the expulsions suggests that Israel's acceptance to return one fourth of the expellees is tantamount to implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 799. But this declaration runs counter to the Council's own position on Iraq, which, till this point in time, has been accused of non-compliance with U.N. resolutions even though Baghdad might have implemented well over 90 per cent of measures adopted against it in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz alluded to this irony in a television interview Friday in which he called for a response from the international community that is at least commensurate with the degree of Iraq's compliance with the Security Council's decisions. Against the backdrop of Friday's declaration on Israel's partial response to Resolution 799, however, Baghdad has every reason to ask for a quid pro quo from the international organisation on the basis of the new rationale elucidated two days ago.

Of course the field could be wide open for making all sorts of distinctions between the Iraqi and Israeli situations. Yet the fact of the matter is that both conflicts present basically the same principles and issues. The central issue is the need for adopting and enforcing one standard in implementing all U.N. resolutions by either rejecting all partial observance of binding decisions or welcoming their phased execution.

The U.N. cannot, under any pretense or circumstance, tolerate piecemeal implementation of its verdicts in one conflict and refuse it in another. This is the crux of the new problem that arose with the latest declaration of the Security Council, and it is up to those who pushed for adopting it to bear special responsibility for the new threat to the credibility of the international organisation. The U.S. government in particular has some thinking to do since it had actively brokered the Israeli compromise deal and stood solidly behind the controversial declaration that ensued. Maybe Warren Christopher will be able to tell us more about his administration's line of thinking on this and other issues when he arrives in the region later this month.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Saturday launched a strong attack on the U.S.-Israeli alliance for the atrocities being committed by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinians in the occupied lands. Following the criminal actions committed by the Israelis in deporting 416 Palestinians to southern Lebanon, the Israelis yesterday blew up 50 Arab homes in the Gaza Strip, noted the daily. Such crimes, could not have taken place had the Security Council been firm about the implementation of its Resolution 799 and had there not been American support for the Israeli practices, the paper continued. Washington's determination to prevent any sanctions to be imposed on Israel for defying the world community, has no doubt encouraged the Israelis to pursue their brutal crimes in the Arab lands, said the paper. It said the U.S. administration cannot absolve itself from the responsibility of being accomplice to these inhuman actions against the Palestinians and can by no means be ignorant of the current escalation of repressive acts exercised by the occupation forces. Indeed, such practices must have been well-prepared by the U.S.-Israeli alliance in order to drive the Palestinians to desperation and refuse to participate in the peace process, said the daily. Such organised crime committed by Israel with encouragement from the U.S. administration can by no means be justified in any way, it added. These practices, it said, can only reflect very negatively on the U.S. administration which condones mass murders of the Palestinian people.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour drew attention to what he called a strange behaviour on the part of the world community. The world community adopts double standard vis-a-vis world events and issues and tries to keep a closed eye on the atrocities committed by the Israelis, said Mohammad Kawash. Citing a statement by the Pope, who called on the Sudanese government to end what the Vatican called religious persecution of Christians in southern Sudan, the writer said that the Pope is saying nothing about the Muslim and Christian communities facing persecution under the Israeli occupation. Coinciding with the Pope's appeal to Sudan, the New York Times published a report about an Israeli court ruling banning Jews who believe in Christ from living in Israel, said the writer. The Israeli practices come at the height of an Israeli brutal campaign against the Palestinian people, in the wake of the deportation of 416 Palestinians to southern Lebanon, he continued. Why, the writer asked, is the world silent about the Israeli atrocities and why does not the Pope lead a campaign to condemn the Israeli racist and ethnic behaviour against the Palestinian Christians, the Muslims and the Jews who believe in Christ? The writer also pointed out that Israel, which brag about ensuring religious freedom, has recently closed seven mosques in the occupied Arab territories. The United States, the writer said, seems to be present in all matters and in every turn of event, but is following a double standard policy in political, religious and in all other affairs.

Surge in killings of Palestinians by Israelis

By Robert Mahoney
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has rekindled the Palestinian uprising — as well as digging himself into a diplomatic hole — by deporting 415 alleged Muslim militants.

The army's initial heavy-handed response to the torrent of protests that greeted the prime minister's December 17 expulsions has set off a cycle of violence not seen since the early days of the five-year-old Arab revolt or intifada.

Israeli left-wing members of parliament and Palestinians accuse soldiers of having itchy trigger fingers when confronting stone-throwing Palestinian youths, a charge the army denies.

But casualty figures compiled by Israeli, Palestinian and foreign sources all point to a sharp increase in the number of Palestinians, particularly children, killed or injured by live ammunition.

According to a Reuter count, Israelis have shot dead 41 Arabs in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 55 days since Mr. Rabin drove the Muslims into the snows of south Lebanon amid worldwide condemnation after militants killed five Israeli soldiers.

The greatest bloodshed has been in the teeming refugee camps of the Gaza Strip.

In the first five weeks of the year troops shot dead 19 Gazans and wounded 770, United Nations officials said. In the same period last year they wounded

370 and killed just one.

Ninety per cent of casualties recently have been shot in the upper half of the body by live ammunition, one U.N. official said.

Besides standard and high velocity bullets the army also fires plastic bullets and rubber-coated metal bullets, both of which can puncture the body.

The army used to shoot more in the air or at legs. Now they take aim and shoot in the chest, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Left-wing members of Mr. Rabin's coalition government have levelled similar charges but the headline former general says open-fire regulations have not been changed.

Standing orders require soldiers to shout a warning or fire a

warning shot in the air before aiming for the legs to disperse demonstrators. Soldiers can fire to defend themselves if they believe their lives are in danger.

"There has been no change in this policy under Rabin," a senior security source insisted. He attributed the rise in deaths to an increase in protests and attacks in the occupied territories by Palestinians opposed to Middle East peace talks which Mr. Rabin vowed to accelerate on taking office last June.

B'tselem, the Israeli watchdog for human rights in the territories, disagrees. It says some soldiers do not always follow regulations.

"We are at a loss why the army is shooting more civilians in non-life-threatening situations,"

B'tselem official Yuval Ginbar told Reuters. He said killings had risen more than 20 per cent under Mr. Rabin who is defence minister as well as prime minister.

Mr. Ginbar said the army shot 63 Palestinians from January to June last year, the final six months of the right-wing Likud government of Yitzhak Shamir. They killed 76 Arabs in the first six months of Mr. Rabin's centre-left administration. The number of children killed jumped from six to 17.

B'tselem said there was no connection between the rise in the number of killings and an increase in Palestinian attacks on Israelis because most of those killed were not armed.

"You'd think that after five years we'd know how to handle demonstrations without shooting civilians," Mr. Ginbar said. "I hope we are not going to go back to the early days of the intifada when Rabin wanted to prove who was boss by shooting stone-throwers and putting soldiers on

every street corner." Mr. Rabin was defence minister in a coalition with Mr. Shamir in 1988. He was reported to have told soldiers to "break the bones" of demonstrators to quash the nascent intifada.

Asked about the upsurge in killings at a meeting of his Labour party on Monday, Mr. Rabin defended his troops — "They have a feeling that they don't have all the tools."

Far from believing the army is under-equipped, human rights activists and left-wing Meretz bloc cabinet ministers want stricter monitoring of its activity in the territories.

"We have asked for a monthly report to keep a check on what is happening," said Meretz member of parliament Ran Cohen.

"I am afraid there is a connection between the deportations and the escalation in shootings," he said. "For soldiers in the occupied territories it has become easier for them to use their guns. The whole atmosphere is more extreme."

M. KAHIL



NATO moves relations with former enemies into higher gear

By Nicholas Doughty

BRUSSELS — NATO is moving its relations with former enemies in eastern Europe into a higher gear, accelerating plans for joint peacekeeping missions and quietly preparing to take on a selected few as new members.

NATO allies agreed with East European countries and former Soviet republics last month to finish initial plans for peacekeeping by the middle of the year.

Alliance sources say discreet discussions have also begun within NATO on the possible admittance of countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

Both of these missions, they say, mean NATO is moving closer towards extending its security umbrella eastwards into parts of the new Europe that are most likely to see ethnic or nationalist unrest in coming years.

"There is a real sea change in the thinking on what we should do with eastern Europe," said one source, who asked not to be identified. "The changes are not dramatic yet, but they are clearly on the way. It's bubbling under the surface."

Officially, the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation says taking on new members is not on the agenda but that it might be possible in the future.

In December Albania became the first former Warsaw Pact member to make a formal application, but it was quietly rejected.

Tirana was told instead to work through a 38-nation "cooperation council", set up just over a year

ago to create more formal ties between NATO and former Warsaw pact members.

Nevertheless, NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner recently named suitable countries for membership in a radio interview, the first time he has done so publicly.

They were, unsurprisingly, the countries closest to NATO geographically and those expected in the West to survive the difficult process of democratic and economic reforms — Poland, Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia.

Other countries worried about instability, including Russia, have also said they would like to join NATO but officials say only a few new members can be taken on.

The reason is concern at NATO that too many new members would weaken the alliance, which works by consensus and often has problems reaching agreements among its members.

Too many newcomers could also dilute the security guarantee contained in its 1949 founding treaty which commits all allies to come to the defence of any single member under attack.

"If we take on too many new countries that process would become much more difficult — and we could find ourselves getting involved in really far-flung conflicts when we have no wish to do so," said one NATO official.

None of the countries on the membership short-list will be admitted soon. Many of them would have trouble linking up with NATO's integrated military structure because their forces are armed largely with Soviet equipment.

The alliance has previously argued that taking on new members would make others feel isolated and create tension, particularly with Russia, which is Europe's main military power.

NATO's top commander in Europe, U.S. General John Shalikashvili, touched on that concern during a visit to Moscow in January, saying it was not yet time to consider new members.

"NATO is not a closed organisation, but right now is not the time to address that issue," he said. "I think it would create tension... which far outweighs the good that might be created."

But officials say there are signs of a change in attitude and a recognition that NATO must address security concerns more directly if it is to survive into the 21st century.

The United States, NATO's senior member, is particularly keen to push ahead although some other allies remain cautious.

"We want to make the 'cooperation council' we have set up more active and shape it as a kind of waiting room for membership, at least for some countries," said another official.

Discussions within NATO are now starting to focus on what conditions should be fulfilled for any new members. These could include the settlement of all border disputes, guarantees for minorities and full democratic control of the armed forces.

The alliance is considering stepping up military contacts with eastern Europe as a prelude to eventual discussions about membership.

But there is another way that

NATO's former enemies can get closer to the alliance they regard as a bastion of stability on an increasingly troubled continent.

The alliance agreed in December to start planning with them for joint peacekeeping operations in Europe, which would be run at the request of the United Nations or the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

At a meeting in Brussels, NATO allies agreed with eastern European nations and former Soviet republics to speed up the process by completing initial plans on training, command and control and logistics for such operations by mid-year.

But there is also broad agreement among the 38 countries involved in the "cooperation council" that peacekeeping may have to include options for combat and that they could go beyond the traditional U.N. "blue helmet" style of operations.

NATO officials say this will effectively extend the alliance's security ambit beyond its borders for the first time, despite the absence of formal guarantees, by posing the threat of deploying heavily-armed troops ready to fight.

NATO has been traditionally limited to the defence of its member states, but recently set a new precedent by offering to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia for the United Nations.

"The days of pristine peacekeeping as we understood it for years are probably over," Gen. Shalikashvili told Reuters. "Prudence dictates that in our planning we take that aspect (of combat) into account." Reuter

LETTERS

Beneficial dust?

To the Editor:

I read with interest a recent letter concerning the dangers to health and the worries of the inhabitants of Fuhais from the alleged effects of cement dust (A cry for help, Jordan Times, Feb. 2, 1993).

I would say without hesitation that the statement the writer has made is quite erroneous.

Before retiring, six years ago, I worked in the cement industry in England for thirty four years in various capacities and finally for ten years as works manager of a large cement factory.

Coming from a family where my parents and grandparents all worked in the coal mining industry, where there is a positive danger from silicosis and pneumoconiosis, both killer diseases, I was most careful to make exhaustive enquiries on the effects of cement dust to health before joining the industry.

I was reassured by a surgeon specialising in lung problems that cement dust was an inert material which passed straight through the system and did not stay in the body as does coal dust.

Further factual proof of not being a harmful substance was the fact that back in those early days of forty years ago, traditionally most employees who worked in the factory lived within a three-kilometre radius of the factory and like the coal mining industry, father was followed by son.

Employees did not necessarily retire from work at sixty five years of age if they wished to carry on working, and a number of them stayed on in light employment beyond seventy years of age.

This was all at a time when pollution control had not become established. At that time the high level pollution, that is the dust emission from tall chimneys, did not have a harmful effect on garden produce other than being unsightly. Thorough washing was all that was required before using. Other vegetation such as rose bushes, shrubs and trees benefited from this coating of fine dust. No diseases, such as black spot, were seen nor were pests, such as aphids. Excellent blooms were obtained as the fine dust acted as a light fertiliser. More recently, just before I retired, I produced dust in pelletised form from the process and was carrying out tests with a local fruit farmer on its effect around trees in one of his orchards. Over a two year period no harm was done and some beneficial effects were seen. This trial however has not been followed up by the new general manager.

I have now been in Amman for two months, working in an unpaid capacity for BESO, a British organisation which offers specialist advice of many different kinds to organisations throughout the world. I am currently working at the Cement Factory in Fuhais on a project which is not pollution control.

My views in this letter are being made to counter any fears which may have been raised by your correspondent and I can categorically say that during the whole time I worked in the cement industry I have not known of any serious illness caused by exposure to cement dust.

The only agreement I can make with your letter-writer is that it is a nuisance and every effort is made to control it and keep it within the prescribed limits as set in Europe.

At the time of my retiring the limits were 100 milligrammes per cubic metre for existing plants and the possibility of reducing this figure to 50 milligrammes per cubic metre for any proposed new plants.

Currently, the figures at the Fuhais plant range between 50 and 100 milligrammes for high level emission, these figures being obtained from tests made recently.

Low-level pollution is a separate problem and is usually confined within the factory boundaries.

Problems from a few of these units are being dealt with so that the general appearance of the factory area will be enhanced.

J.L. Ward,
BESO volunteer,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Sharif Zeid meets with Leahy

(Continued from page 1)

block in the Middle East peace process and emphasized that the immediate implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 was the best way "to move this obstacle and regain the momentum of the peace process in an atmosphere of confidence."

Jordan saw little seriousness in the international scene to implement resolutions based on international legitimacy and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Sharif Zeid was quoted as saying.

Mr. Leahy, 52, a veteran Democrat senator from Vermont, heads the Senate subcommittee on American foreign assistance. He arrived here early Saturday.

Following Saturday's meeting, Mr. Leahy told Jordan Television:

"I was in this region and wanted to come by and now that

Secretary (of State Warren) Christopher is coming in a short while I wanted to have the assessment of the prime minister and of His Majesty in the whole peace process.

"The United States has been heavily involved in the peace process, and Jordan has been heavily involved, and I wanted to get their frank assessment of where the peace process is going now."

Mr. Leahy said the U.S. was opposed to expulsions.

"I was in Israel early this week and I made that statement to the Israeli officials that I have met with. I also take the same position as the administration in opposition to it," he said.

"But I hope that problem can be worked out. The peace process is far too important to let it get sidetracked. It is too important to the Arab World. It is very important to Israel. It is very important to the U.S."

Hariri: No separate peace accord

(Continued from page 1)

The U.N. Security Council demanded in 1978 that Israel withdraw from Lebanon land it controlled after a three-month invasion that year. Lebanon maintains the measure also applies to the "security" belt Israel carved from southern Lebanon in 1985 after its second invasion and three-year-long occupation of parts of Lebanon.

Mr. Hariri said his talks with Mr. Mubarak included the crisis sparked by Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of over 400 Palestinians and its effect on moves towards peace.

He would not comment on the Security Council's acceptance of an Israeli offer to repatriate 101

men as a first step towards bringing them all home. "I cannot tell you our position without studying the proposal," Mr. Hariri said.

Mr. Hariri's three-day visit was part of a flurry of diplomatic activity by Arab leaders who want to reach a concerted position before Mr. Christopher's first visit to the region next week. Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the Palestinians are pinning high hopes on the visit.

Mr. Hariri also met Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki. He came from a meeting in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Expellees bury

(Continued from page 1)

by the end of the year was a step in the right direction.

It reaffirmed Security Council Resolution 799, demanding the evictees' immediate return, and stressed the need for it to be implemented "as soon as possible."

"We reject this declaration totally because it is an attempt to get around Security Council Resolution 799," Dr. Rantisi told reporters at the rain-soaked tent camp. "Our fixed position is the implementation to the letter of Resolution 799."

He described the declaration as "a desperate attempt to smooth the way for Christopher's visit to the Middle East so that this visit may bear fruit in convincing the Arab states in sitting at the negotiations table."

Palestinian negotiators have announced they will not return to the talks until all the expellees are returned.

Dr. Rantisi said the formula was an attempt to get around an earlier recommendation by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for the Security Council to take all necessary measures to implement Resolution 799.

Russia

(Continued from page 1)

to the war, particularly destroying all weapons of mass destruction and stopping alleged persecution of minorities.

"Russia's position is firm vis-a-vis Iraq," Mr. Melekhov told reporters. "Russia believes that the situation requires that Iraq comply with all Security Council resolutions."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has supported the sanctions but is under pressure from hardliners who say he is too appealing to the West.

Russia called last month for a U.N. review of air strikes enforcing "no-fly" zones over northern and southern Iraq when U.S. cruise missiles destroyed a factory near Baghdad and hit a downtown hotel, Washington claimed the factory was part of Iraq's programme to develop nuclear weapons.

Somali demands apology for being misidentified as Lufthansa hijacker

NEW YORK (AP)—The Somali passenger wrongly identified as the hijacker of a German airliner to New York has demanded a public apology Friday from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and Lufthansa.

Ferah Siyad Shuriye, 31, was misidentified for several hours Thursday by the FBI and the German interior ministry as the gunman who commandeered Lufthansa Flight 592 with 104 people aboard. The Airbus destined for Egypt and Ethiopia was taken on a 10-hour, 8,960-kilometre odyssey that began in Frankfurt and ended peacefully at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York Thursday.

The hijacker was later identified as Nebiu Zewolde Demeke, an Ethiopian living in Morocco.

Mr. Demeke has asked for asylum in the United States, but faces charges of air piracy, said James M. Fox, head of the FBI's New York office.

But until the mistake was cleared up, Mr. Shuriye was identified as the hijacker in international news reports.

A day after the hijacking, Mr. Shuriye sat over scrambled eggs and coffee at an airport hotel and described his emotional ordeal over the mixup. He complained that the FBI had ignored his plea for a public apology and an explanation.

"I'm overwhelmed. My name was all over the world. They gave me a bad name. How am I ever going to recover from this?" Mr. Shuriye asked.

Mr. Shuriye, a soft-spoken, mild-mannered man, said he first discovered that he had been identified as the hijacker shortly after getting off the plane and calling

friends in Oslo, Norway.

"Are you mad?" his friends asked him. "What have you done? You're the hijacker. It's all over the news, your picture and your name," Mr. Shuriye recounted.

Mr. Shuriye, who spoke broken English and in Norwegian through an interpreter, said he immediately went up to an FBI agent at the airport, told him about the conversation with his friends and asked for the hijacker's name.

"And the FBI said that's the name we've released. ... I told them I wanted them to clear up the mistake. I was told, 'we can't do anything to help you'."

"I asked them later if they clarified the mistake, they said, 'sorry we can't help you'."

He said he had not decided yet whether to file a lawsuit against U.S. authorities for the case of mistaken identity.

Joe Valiquette, a spokesman for the FBI in New York, said Mr. Shuriye's "name was given to us by authorities in Europe. We were acting on that presumption until we talked to him (the real hijacker)." He declined to comment on Mr. Shuriye's request for a public apology.

In Germany, interior minister spokesman Roland Bachmeier said Mr. Shuriye was initially suspected as the hijacker because the Lufthansa office in Oslo had received an anonymous call from a woman after the hijacking, saying he was on the flight.

The woman hung up without saying anything else, causing officials to believe she had attempted to tip them on the hijacker's identity, Mr. Bachmeier said. The mixup was not cleared up

until Mr. Demeke gave himself up in New York.

Mr. Shuriye is a political refugee from Somalia who holds a Norwegian passport. He has been

living and studying in Kristiansand, on the southern tip of Norway, since the spring of 1991 when he fled the civil war in his homeland. He left behind his wife

and three young sons, and was on his way to Somalia to try to find them and bring them back to Norway when the hijacking

occurred. He said he did not sleep at all last night because of his being identified as the hijacker.



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Algerian

(Continued from page 1)

new supreme court. I went up onto the roof. There was a lot of smoke and it was followed by some sub-machinegun fire."

Late last year Algeria passed a draconian security law, set up special courts with anonymous judges, and imposed a night curfew on the capital and six nearby areas.

The authorities last Sunday extended indefinitely a state of emergency imposed for one year in February 1992 and due to expire last Tuesday.

Prime Minister Belaid Abdul Salam said Thursday that security forces had arrested 3,500 people in the past year in the crackdown on violence. He offered a partial amnesty to Muslim fundamentalists who surrendered and helped the security forces, saying their sentences would be reduced.

Those who had been involved with the movement but had not spilled blood would not be prosecuted, he said.

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Faisali play Egypt's Ismaili today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Faisali Sunday play Egypt's Al Ismaili in the first round of the 8th Arab Soccer League Championships. The tournament is being held in Doha, Qatar.

Regardless of the result of the match, both Al Faisali and Al Ismaili have secured their places for the semifinal round after they beat the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Al Shabab 7-2 and 3-1 respectively.

Qualifying teams from the second group have not been determined yet as Tunisia's Al Taraji and Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab are tied with 3 points each in the overall standings.

Al Taraji's bid to draw in their match with Al Shabab will secure their qualification to the semifinal round. Al Shabab's chance of qualifying are more complicated however. In addition to defeating Al Taraji, they will have to win against Al Quds.

Eventually, the winner will depend on the result of the second match between Al Faisali and Al Quds of Palestine. If Al Taraji qualify, Al Faisali's chances of moving to the semifinals will depend on winning their match against Al Quds by a minimum of four goals.

The semifinal matches will be played Tuesday Feb. 16.

Knicks beat Bulls 104-98 as Jordan suspended

CHICAGO (R) — Patrick Ewing scored 12 of his game-high 36 points in the fourth quarter Friday to lead the New York Knicks to a 104-98 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Chicago's Michael Jordan did not play because he had been fined \$10,000 and suspended earlier in the day for his part in a fight with Indiana's Reggie Miller Wednesday night.

The Knicks, who won at Chicago for the first time since March 6th, 1987, also got 21 points from John Starks.

The Bulls, who had their five-game winning streak snapped, were led by Scottie Pippen's season-high 35 points.

In Detroit, former Net Terry Mills scored 22 points and Isiah Thomas had 21 points and 14 assists as the Detroit Pistons defeated New Jersey Nets, 106-97.

Kenny Anderson scored 24 points for the Nets, who had their winning streak snapped at three.

Detroit stopped its losing streak at five and won for only the third time in 14 games. Detroit took the lead for good three minutes, 59 seconds into the game and held a 60-50 halftime advantage.

Melvin Newbern scored a career-high 20 points for the Pistons.

Drazen Petrovic scored 20 points for New Jersey.

In Miami, Larry Johnson scored 30 points and Charlotte outscored Miami, 30-17, in the decisive fourth quarter as the streaking Hornets rallied to beat the Heat, 116-107.

The Hornets trailed, 90-86, after three quarters but went on a furious fourth-quarter rally to win for the sixth time in their last seven games.

Alonzo Mourning chipped in with 22 points for the Hornets and Muggsy Bogues and Kendall Gill each added 20.

Glen Rice's 21 points led Miami.

In Indianapolis, Christian

Laettner scored 22 points and Chuck Person added 18 as the Minnesota Timberwolves held on to defeat the Indiana Pacers, 102-100.

The Timberwolves led as many 11 points at 92-81 with 5:39 left, but the Pacers went on a 13-3 run to move within 95-94 with 1:49 to go but could get no closer.

Michael Williams scored five of his 14 points in the final 1:39 for Indiana, which has lost five straight games after winning four in a row.

Reggie Miller, who was fined \$6,000 for his part in the fight with Jordan, led Indiana with 21 points.

In Cleveland, John "hot rod" Williams scored 18 points and Gerald Wilkins added 18 to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 120-98 romp over the reeling Milwaukee Bucks.

The Cavaliers led, 83-70, after three quarters and opened the fourth quarter with a 13-6 run to take an insurmountable 20-point lead at 96-76 with 6:39 remaining.

Todd Day and Frank Brickowski each had 17 points for Milwaukee, which has lost five straight games and six of its last seven.

In Dallas, Alaa Abdelnaby scored 24 points off the bench and Reggie Lewis scored nine of his 22 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Boston Celtics to their fourth straight win, a 109-100 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

Terry Davis had 21 points before leaving the game midway through the fourth quarter with back spasms to lead Dallas, which managed just 14 points in the second quarter.

The Mavericks, who have the worst record in the NBA at 4-42, have lost four straight and 12 of their last 13.

In Denver, Chris Jackson scored 23 of his 31 points in the second half to lead the streaking Denver Nuggets to their ninth

straight home win, a 126-122 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Nuggets, who are just 3-21 on the road but 16-7 at home, haven't lost at home since January 9th against Seattle. Dikembe Mutombo chipped in with 22 points, 15 rebounds and five blocked shots for Denver.

Jeff Hornacek had a game-high 37 points for the Sixers, who have lost six straight games and eight of nine overall.

In Los Angeles, Clyde Drexler scored 32 points and Terry Porter added 25 as Portland rallied to defeat the Los Angeles Clippers, 111-104, snapping the Trail Blazers four-game losing streak.

The Blazers had lost four straight for the first time since February 24th-March 1st, 1991. Danny Manning pumped in 35 points for the Clippers, who have lost four of their last five games.

Parish to answer drug charge

Boston Celtic star center Robert Parish will face a drug charge next month after police found about seven ounces (200 grammes) of marijuana in his suburban Boston home, a prosecutor's spokeswoman said Friday.

Parish, at 39 the oldest player in the National Basketball Association, will be ordered to appear in Waltham District Court March 3 to be formally charged with marijuana possession, spokeswoman Terry Smith said.

Police obtained a warrant to search Parish's Weston, Massachusetts, home Thursday after a narcotics-sniffing dog at a federal express shipping facility in San Francisco indicated there were drugs in a package addressed to him.

Police allowed the package to be delivered and then searched Parish's home, allegedly discovering about seven ounces of marijuana.

Martin upsets Agassi

MEMPHIS (R) — Todd Martin jarred Andre Agassi's new focus on his tennis, beating him 6-1 7-6 (7-4), and for the second night in a row top-seed Jim Courier flurried with disaster before winning at the \$780,000 St. Jude International Tennis Tournament.

Courier faced match point before beating fellow-American Jonathan Stark 6-7 (5-7) 6-3 7-5.

Courier will play six-seeded Amos Mansdorf in the semifinals.

The 96th-ranked Martin, who will play second-seeded Michael Chang in the semifinals, seemed excited about his impressive performance and pumped his fists after making some incredible shots.

Agassi, who announced recently that he was concentrating harder on his tennis this season, did not appreciate the gestures, which appeared from the sidelines to be just exuberance and not directed at Agassi.

But the eight-ranked Agassi was incensed at Martin, an occasion U.S. Davis Cup teammate.

"I'm really disappointed with Todd today," Agassi said.

"When I do it, I get excited personally. When he does it, it's to get in your face. For someone who knows he's going to have one good week a year, he's got no business to act like that."

"Players of his standing and stature should realize guys are excited just to have an opportunity to play someone like Andre," said Martin, about his biggest career victory. "I was not directing any hostility at him. I wish he would realize it was inwardly directed."

Martin played a huge game — serving 15 aces and allowing Agassi to break his serve only once. The one time Agassi did break serve was when Martin served for the match at 6-5 in the second set.

Becker overwhelms Stich

Boris Becker took nine months of frustration out on his former Davis Cup team mate Michael Stich when he blasted him out of the Milan Indoor Tournament.

Playing his best tennis of the year, Becker won the all-German quarter-final 6-2 6-2 in one hour 20 minutes after breaking Stich's powerful serve six times.

It was at the German Open in May last year that Stich humiliated Becker 6-1 6-1 in a semifinal and Becker has been itching for a chance to pay him back.

Their on-court rivalry has been accentuated by Becker's recent decision to pull out of the German Davis Cup team to play Russia in March, a move publicly criticized by Stich.

Becker admitted the German Open result had been a spur for him but tried to play down the rivalry between the pair.

"Whether I beat Stich or not seems to be more important to other people than me. There must be more German journalists in Milan this week than in the history of the city."

Becker, the second seed, will meet unseeded Australian Wally Masur in the semifinal.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A trine from Venus to moon today allows for much ease in communicating just the message that you desire to your love interest. As for gifts, that which is festive and frivolous is desired over the practical today.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A chance arrives for you to express your finest creative talent so be alert for it and tonight you find a cherished longing closer to you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A member of your family has a fine idea by which you can privately gain an important secret wish, tonight consult with a bigwig for future plans.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Go on a feast with a good friend for whatever your joint purpose and you can make real headway in gaining objectives; make friends with a newcomer tonight.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can get a brilliant suggestion from a financial expert on how to increase your abundance and have more of life's goodies, tonight be happy with mate.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) New ways to gain progressive goals that mean much to you can now be made a reality by some changes on your part, in thinking; tonight encourage a new associate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A new approach at gaining the confidential information you require can yield a gold mine of results; later put some extra pizzazz into your duties.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider changes in whatever partnerships that can be beneficial to you and others concerned, tonight put into motion a special aptitude that you enjoy.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The manner in which you perform whatever activities are now yours is noticed by those in authority who are ready to give you support; tonight coming tasks.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are inspired now to gain your most comprehensive aspirations and can impress all you meet; tonight get off to new scenes with unusual persons.

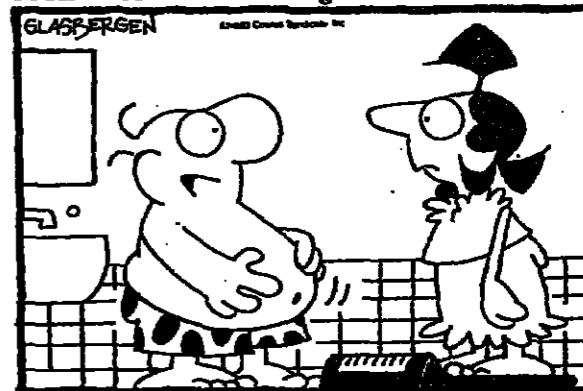
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can arrive at an unexpected new understanding with a family member about a matter of importance at home; then get into ideas presented by a business expert.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Meet with partners and those with whom you are associated in everyday affairs and get a course worked out for the future; then do your own thing.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can spend something extra of your money in order to make your surroundings more attractive so don't procrastinate but do it right away.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"I must be sentimental — I'm still wearing the first meal you cooked for me!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

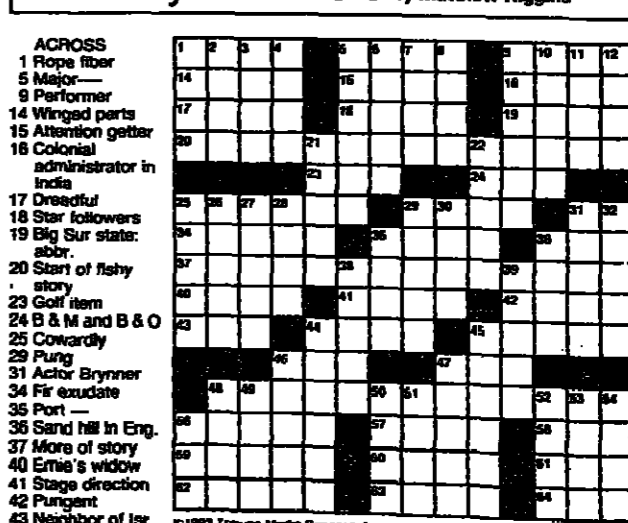
Answer here: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLORA POUCH TINKLE BANISH

Answer: The camera bugs' race ended in this — A PHOTO FINISH

THE Daily Crossword

by Matthew Higgins



Zulu chief warns of bloodshed over ANC-Pretoria deal

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi warned Saturday of possible bloodshed if the South African government and the ANC tried to impose their constitutional plans for the country's future on his people.

The Inkatha Freedom Party leader said in a statement the government and the ANC would have to resort to force to compel the KwaZulu homeland to accept the plans they announced Friday.

"The government and the ANC/SACP (African National Congress/South African Communist Party) alliance are playing with our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren," Chief Buthelezi said.

He was reacting to Friday's statement by ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa that the government had agreed that the question of regional autonomy should be settled by an elected Constituent Assembly.

The government previously insisted that a constituent assembly be bound by the principle of devolution of power to the regions.

Senior government negotiator Fanie Scheman also said that Nelson Mandela's organisation, the biggest opposition group negotiating the end of exclusive white rule in South Africa, had accepted power-sharing between

blacks and whites until 1999. The decisions were reached at three days of talks between the government and the African National Congress and appeared to resolve two major constitutional issues blocking progress towards non-racial rule.

But Chief Buthelezi raised the spectre of bloodshed if the ANC and the government went ahead with the plans.

"If the ANC/SACP alliance and the government are serious in proceeding along the lines described, they will have to factor in their plans the need for using the South African Defence Force and the private army of the ANC/SACP alliance, Umkhonto We Sizwe, to achieve compliance of KwaZulu/Natal," Chief Buthelezi said.

Chief Buthelezi, who fears being sidelined and is trying to promote his own federal plan for a democratic South Africa, said there was no possibility of Inkatha, the KwaZulu government or the majority of people in KwaZulu/Natal accepting the mooted constitutional model.

It was simply out of the question, he said. "That a Constituent Assembly, elected in unfree and unfair elections in the current climate of violence and intimidation, will decide on boundaries, powers, functions and structures of the region."

It was unclear whether the reported government-ANC compromise and Chief Buthelezi's reaction would effect plans for a summit between the Zulu leader and Mr. Mandela aimed at trying to reduce the level of violence in the country.

More than 7,700 people have been killed, most in township turf wars between ANC and Inkatha supporters, since reformist President F.W. de Klerk unbanned opposition groups and began dismantling apartheid three years ago.

Mr. Mandela, interviewed by British television personality David Frost, said Friday night he had hoped a summit would take place but there were major differences between him and Chief Buthelezi.

The ANC leader said the first elections open to all races should go ahead despite the violence and preferably before the end of the year.

Multi-party talks on the future of the country are expected to start next month.

Mr. Mandela said Friday his supporters had expected too much of him when he was released from jail three years ago this month.

"They thought I would come out of prison and solve problems with a magic wand," he told Mr.

Frost. "That perception created expectations which no human being could possibly fulfil," said Mr. Mandela.

"The mistakes which I and the organisation committed now and again have lowered the expectations, I hope."

Mr. Mandela served 27 years in jail after being sentenced to a life term for treason and sabotage. He was freed as part of reforms instituted by Mr. de Klerk.

The ANC would fight the elections in alliance with the South African Communist Party, Mr. Mandela added.

"We propose to come out openly and say in this list of 200 (candidates) there are so many members of the ANC, there are so many members of the Communist Party."

"As far as we have been able to study the size of the membership, the Communist Party has got a tiny minority. Its representation on that national list will be in proportion to the numbers which it commands."

Mr. Mandela will have talks with British Prime Minister John Major on Feb. 22 during a trip to Europe, the ANC said Friday.

A statement said Mr. Mandela would be in Portugal on Feb. 23 and 24 and would travel to Scotland on Feb. 25. It gave no other details.



An elderly Serbian woman warms up by drinking a coffee in her bed, which has been put in a classroom in Kraljevo, the centre of the Serb-dominated enclave of Krajina in Croatia (AFP photo).

166 Muslims reported starved to death in east Bosnia towns

SARAJEVO (R) — At least 166 people have starved to death in two Muslim towns blockaded against U.N. relief convoys by Serb forces in eastern Bosnia, Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio reported Saturday.

It said 108 people, including 40 children, had died of hunger in Cerska since Jan. 5 and 58 others since Feb. 1 in Gorazde.

Both towns have been under siege since the start of the civil war last April between Muslims, Croats and Serbs in the former Yugoslav republic.

Jose Maria Mendiluce, special UNHCR envoy in the region, has announced plans to send convoys into eastern Bosnia next week to challenge Serb road blocks preventing aid reaching stricken Muslims.

Mr. Mendiluce was due in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo Saturday to try to persuade the Muslim-led government to renounce a boycott of UNHCR aid being staged in sympathy with the Muslims in the east.

On Sunday he will go to Pale, the Bosnian Serb administrative centre outside Sarajevo, with a list of convoys he proposes to run into the eastern region under the protection of U.N. peacekeeping troops.

Sarajevo was quiet overnight apart from some scattered small arms fire in the old town.

In neighbouring Croatia where there has been fighting between Croats and Serbs since late January, reports of a French soldier killed and three others were injured this week.

General Philippe Morillon told reporters he had protested to Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic who had ordered an investigation of the incident Thursday. The four soldiers were in an

armoured car which was hit at Sarajevo Airport. One of the soldiers later died.

Gen. Morillon said it was a deliberate attack carried out by Bosnian government forces for propaganda purposes.

The United Nations said Saturday it had temporarily halted food aid flights into Sarajevo Airport because of recent heavy shelling in the area.

"We're not flying into Sarajevo today, for security reasons," said Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The UNHCR, main coordinator of food supplies to the war-torn region, plans to resume flights Sunday, she said.

In Brussels, the European Community said it welcomed the decision by the United States to take a more active role in bringing peace to ex-Yugoslavia and to appoint Mr. Bartholomew as U.S. envoy to the peace negotiations.

"The European Community and its member states look forward to close cooperation with the U.S. in the pursuit of a negotiated settlement," it said in a statement adopted late Friday.

In Moscow, the new U.S. special envoy on Bosnia started meeting top Russian officials Saturday to discuss coordinating attempts to boost the peacekeeping process in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Bartholomew held talks with the head of the Russian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Yevgeny Ambartsumov, and was later due to meet Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Both men told reporters they were confident the discussion would be fruitful.

Angolan troops hold on in Huambo

LUANDA (R) — Government forces clung by their fingertips to the besieged town of Huambo Saturday after losing more ground to National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels in the latest round of fighting for Angola's second city.

Diplomats said UNITA seized key areas and government buildings in the fierce street fighting. State radio said government troops were still holding on to some positions after resisting an armoured-car led thrust by UNITA forces surrounding the central highland city.

UNITA's Voice of the Black Cockerel radio said earlier its forces were in control of the airport and a police barracks.

The diplomats predicted Friday that Huambo would fall to UNITA within 48 hours, ending the month-long battle in which thousands have been killed or wounded which has become the centrepiece of the civil war.

The United Nations said it was urgently trying to contact UNITA to discuss reports that it had rejected a proposed truce to allow mercy flights of food and medicine to Huambo.

Relief workers say thousands of wounded are without food or medical treatment in the city which has been flattened by air

attacks, artillery barrages and tank fire.

"We hope to have a response later on," said a spokesman for U.N. special representative to Angola, Margaret Anstee who has been vainly trying to contact UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi.

The diplomats believe UNITA will only resume peace talks with the government, a first round of which took place in Addis Ababa earlier this month, after it occupies Huambo.

UNITA cancelled the second round which had been due to start last Wednesday, saying it was recalling its delegation for consultation.

Powell: U.S. military change must come slowly

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States' top soldier is advising against moving too rapidly to change the missions assigned to the military, warning that the nation's fighting power is at stake.

"If we proceed too quickly, or impose changes so large they cannot be absorbed, the risk is that we may destroy the basic fabric of our fighting force," Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at a news conference Friday.

Gen. Powell put his words of caution in a 120 page position paper on the future of the military. Such a report is required by law every three years.

The blueprint set a sharply different tone from that of the Clinton administration, which is urging swift action to cut costs. But the four-star general sought to minimise the differences, telling the news conference "there's a new team on board and we're going to get new ideas from that new team."

Earlier this week, Gen. Powell appeared on TV news programmes to deny that he wanted to leave his post earlier than his September retirement because of differences with President Bill Clinton over gays in the military

and the pace of defence cuts. A briefing booklet given to reporters at the news conference said pointedly that Gen. Powell's report was not "an attempt to short-circuit new administration policy" and was not "the opening shot of an insurrection."

The report recommends ending some cross service redundancies in maintenance and training, but advises against major consolidation of military roles carried out by the army, navy, air force and Marine corps.

Gen. Powell also warned against reducing the size of the U.S. overseas force too rapidly. The administration wants to bring the level of U.S. troops in Europe to 100,000 by the end of 1996, down from previous goals of 150,000.

"Further reductions in forward stationed forces can be made, but...the current rate of reduction should be maintained," Gen. Powell wrote. "Going any faster would adversely affect the cohesion and readiness of the overall force structure."

Among his other recommendations: "A unified command over forces defending the continental United States; a single initial training programme for fixed-

wing planes; and consolidation of the navy and air force command and control aircraft into the navy's E 6A programme.

Mr. Clinton is seeking \$60 billion in military cuts over the next five years beyond what the Bush administration planned, but Gen. Powell's blueprint provides only a few specific cost cutting recommendations.

It says \$400 million to \$600 million a year could be saved by closing seven or eight of the 30 maintenance depots around the country.

Gen. Powell also recommended that the army remain the sole service equipped with multiple launch rocket systems — the military's most modern short-range attack missiles — and that the Marines not go ahead with a planned \$300 million purchase of the rockets.

Meanwhile, President Clinton is preparing to name the first female secretary of the air force, a newspaper reported Friday.

The Washington Times, quoting unidentified Defence Department sources, said Sheila Widnall would be the service's top civilian administrator but would not be in the chain of military command.

The sources told the newspaper they didn't know when the announcement would be made, but that it was likely to come soon. Ms. Widnall, a professor of aeronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, told the Times in a telephone interview Thursday that she had met with Defence Secretary Les Aspin in January, but declined to say whether he had offered her the job.

"It's the president's prerogative to make such an offer, and I'm not in any sense tapped by the president," she told the newspaper. "I'm just waiting."

Ms. Widnall, 54, has conducted air force sponsored research and was a member of the Air Force Academy's Board of Visitors from 1970 to 1984, the Times said.

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Mother leaves girl in British 'home alone' case

LONDON (R) — An 11-year-old girl whose mother appears to have gone to Spain was left in a London flat to fend for herself in what is being called a British version of the U.S. "home alone" scandal. Police said Friday that the girl, who was in the sole care of her mother, went to an elderly neighbour for help and is now being looked after by local authorities. "We are trying to locate the child's mother to interview her," a police spokesman said. "At present we have initiated inquiries in Spain where it is thought the mother may be." There were no details on how long the girl was left alone in the flat. The British media drew parallels with the case of a Chicago couple, David and Sharon Schoo, who have been charged with cruelty after leaving their two daughters at home while they took a vacation in Mexico. The Schoo case was dubbed the "home alone" scandal after a Hollywood hit film about a child parted from his parents.

Charles leaves for U.S.

LONDON (R) — Future King Prince Charles left Britain Friday on his first trip abroad since the official breakdown of his marriage and an alleged adulterous affair. Prince Charles took a Concorde flight to New York for a meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. After two days he goes on to Mexico for an official visit at the invitation of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. The 43-year-old prince appeared happy and relaxed at Heathrow Airport, greeting reporters with a cheerful "good morning." Officials who shake the royal hand in the United States and Mexico will probably be too polite to mention the recording of a telephone conversation, said to be with married friend Camilla Parker Bowles, which made sensational headlines around the world last month. The couple on the tape are caught in an intimate bedtime chat recorded long before Prince Charles and his wife Princess Diana were officially separated last December.

U.K. government kills rape bill in parliament

LONDON (R) — Britain's Conservative government Friday killed a parliamentary bill which sought to make male rape and rape in marriage a crime. The government, which said the bill was unnecessary as most of the crimes were adequately covered under existing law, stopped any further action on the proposed law introduced by an opposition Labour member, Harry Cohen.

The Labour Party called earlier this week for judges to treat rape more seriously after a 15-year-old who raped a schoolmate was allowed to go free. A Home Office (Interior Ministry) spokesman said rape in marriage, while not formally on the statute books, was outlawed by a decision in the House of Lords, parliament's upper chamber, under current law, male rape is punishable as sodomy. Mr. Cohen's bill would also have widened the definition of rape to cover not just vaginal penetration but other forms of sexual assault. It would have denied bail for a defendant with prior rape convictions. The Home Office spokesman said creating new offences was not the solution to the problem of increasing sexual crimes. Government sources said the Home Office was considering a review of sentencing policy for sexual crimes.

World War II prisoner returns after 52 years

PARIS (R) — A French prisoner in Nazi Germany who stayed behind the iron curtain after World War II for the love of a Ukrainian woman returned home Friday for the first time in nearly 53 years. Paul Catrain, now 74, will spend a week in the tiny farming village of Bois-les-Pargny in northeastern France, where a public welcoming ceremony will be held Sunday, his relative Raymond Catrain told Reuters. Mr. Catrain was prevented from contacting his family during most of the cold war. For many years, he was believed dead and his name was only recently removed from the village's war memorial. He has lived on a collective farm at Strikuv in Ukraine since 1945, but was flown back to France by a French television station.

"This is just basic, fundamental research which has broad applications in a whole lot of different areas," she said. "Now we're going to see a lot more of that."

Khmer Rouge see military situation worsening

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's military situation is deteriorating and national elections planned for May by the United Nations will be a farce, a senior Khmer Rouge official said Saturday.

"The (military) situation is worsening...there is no improvement since November," Mac Ben told a news conference.

"They (the Phnom Penh army) have already started their 15th dry season offensive," he said.

"The Cambodian people and their patriotic forces will commit themselves to do everything they could to preserve Cambodia as a nation. It is a question of the very survival of the nation."

"Mac Ben, a senior official who often acts as the group's spokesman, said U.N.-organised elections set for late May would be "a farce" that "would spell an end to Cambodia."

The Phnom Penh government's army had been trying to capture Pailin by Jan. 28, where an army of Cambodian factions were meeting in Pailin for a session of the Supreme National Council, the national reconciliation body, Mr. Mac Ben said.

He said Khmer Rouge guerrillas had repulsed the Phnom Penh army from around its headquarters in Pailin near the Thai border in western Cambodia but fighting was still continuing.

"Now we have repulsed the Vietnamese forces and their puppet from the Pailin area but the situation continues to be tense and the confrontation will go on," he said.

The Khmer Rouge maintain that the Vietnamese army, which ousted them from power in 1979, is still active in Cambodia and directing the Phnom Penh government it installed.

U.N. military personnel and diplomats reject the claim.

"The Phnom Penh regime is nothing but the tip of the Vietnamese iceberg," Mr. Mac Ben said. "The present rulers of Phnom Penh are all window dressing."

U.N. military headquarters in Phnom Penh described the January-February fighting, mainly around Battambang province in the northwest, as the worst ceasefire violation since the peacekeepers arrived last March.

While rejecting calls to disarm its fighters in line with the accords, the faction has sought to exploit anti-Vietnamese sentiment to undermine the Phnom Penh government.

Recent killings to ethnic Vietnamese settlers have been blamed by U.N. investigators on the Khmer Rouge.

Sounding an ominous note, Mr. Mac Ben said the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) headed by Japanese diplomat Yasushi Akashi would be held responsible for the consequences of an election held without a neutral political environment.

"This kind of election will produce an assembly and government that will not be different from the one now installed in Phnom Penh," he said. "The Cambodian people will not accept that kind of election."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Togo opposition slams new government

LOME (R) — Togo's main opposition leader slammed Prime Minister Joseph Kokou Koffigoh's new crisis government Saturday, calling it illegitimate and lightweight. The lame-duck premier announced a lineup Friday night, packed with supporters of strongarm President Gnassingbe Eyadema, who dissolved the previous government a month ago. "One wonders on what basis Joseph Kokou Koffigoh has formed a government at this moment," Leopold Gnimini, leader of the main COD2 opposition grouping, told Radio France International. "It doesn't count for anything. The problems remain." Mr. Gnimini, one of the few opposition leaders left in the west African country after a run of violent attacks on Mr. Eyadema's critics, said no government could be formed before an "overall solution" was found to Togo's two-year-old political crisis. In the most recent flareup, security forces shot dead at least 22 opposition supporters last month in the capital Lome. More than 100,000 terrified Lome residents fled to neighbouring Ghana and Benin.

Mali ex-president sentenced to death

BAMAKO (R) — Ex-President Moussa Traore of Mali and three senior army officers were sentenced to death after a court found them guilty of mass murder in 1991. Defence lawyers said the condemned men would appeal. The death penalty is mandatory in Mali for convicted murderers. After a 10-week trial the High Court in Bamako said Mr. Traore had ordered security forces to open fire on demonstrators in the capital Bamako and provincial cities, killing 106 people.

Blast kills 2 in Manila subway

MANILA (AP) — An unidentified man Saturday threw a homemade bomb at a passing soft drink delivery truck but it bounced off the vehicle and exploded in front of a store, killing two people and wounding three, police said. Police said the dead included a female public school teacher and a 5-year-old girl. The wounded were all children. Motive for the attack has not been established, police added.

FBI: CIA suspect fled after warning from U.S. friend

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — Mir Aimal Kansi knew the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was looking for him two days before he was identified as the prime suspect in the murder of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) employee, law enforcement officials said Saturday.

The 28-year-old Pakistani disappeared on Feb. 8 from his home in Quetta, saying he was going to the southern port city of Karachi before returning to the United States.

He had a friend in the United States who warned him that the FBI was looking for him, said a senior law enforcement official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

Mr. Kansi had returned to the family's sprawling home in southwestern Baluchistan province on Jan. 20, three days after the shooting deaths outside the CIA Headquarters in Maclean, Va.

Mr. Kansi is suspected of shooting two employees and wounding three as they drove into the compound.

Mr. Kansi had lived in the United States for nearly two years, working at a courier service which made deliveries to the CIA, although Mr. Kansi did not have clearance to enter the headquarters compound.

Quetta was a prime centre for the CIA's covert operations during the 14-year civil war between Afghan rebels and the former Communist regime in Kabul. It also is a Pakistani centre of drug trafficking and weapons smuggling to Afghanistan and Iran.

Pakistani officials, however, say they have been unable to find a motive that links the CIA shootings and Kansi, now on the FBI's "10 most wanted" list. He had no criminal record and was not involved in any militant political groups while studying English literature at Baluchistan University, they said.

Law enforcement officers in Quetta claim their American counterparts are withholding information.

U.S. officials were not immediately available for comment. The federal government promised to help the FBI track down Mr. Kansi and extradite him to the United States. An FBI team is expected in Pakistan this week.

But local authorities suspect Mr. Kansi has fled either to Afghanistan, Iran or the Middle East, travelling on a new Pakistani passport obtained in Washington.

Mr. Kansi's family belongs to the Kansi tribe living in Baluchistan, which contains parts of southwestern Afghanistan and southeastern Iran. Authorities say he may have sought sanctuary from clan members, who live by a strict code that guarantees any tribal member seeking asylum unquestioned support and protection.

Mr. Kansi faces possible charges of capital murder — punishable by execution — after investigators searched his apartment in Reston, Va., and found a Chinese-made AK 47 automatic rifle that tests showed had been used in the attack.

Burma: Rebels killed 61 villagers

BANGKOK (Agencies) — Burma's state radio said Friday 61 Burmese, including a two-month-old baby, were killed in an attack on a village by Shan insurgents.

The official radio station of Burma's ruling generals, monitored in Bangkok, said 300 Shan insurgents stormed into the village near Linkhae township in Shan state, which borders China, Laos and northern Thailand, early on Feb. 9.

The insurgents attacked the village with hand grenades and machineguns and then took villagers to an open field and shot them, the broadcast said.

No independent confirmation of the attack could be made. The radio said women, old men and children, including a two-month-old baby, were among the dead. Many appeared to have been stabbed to death with bayonets.

A former Shan insurgent now living in Bangkok said Linkhae was not an area of activity for his former comrades who, like a dozen other ethnic minority groups, want autonomy from Rangoon.

"Maybe the government troops killed the people," he told Reuters.

Radio Rangoon said government soldiers arrived at the village 30 minutes after the killings. It did not suggest a motive for the attack.

Meanwhile, South Africa's Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu said Friday he would join a delegation of Nobel Peace Prize laureates who hope to enter Burma next week to pressure the government to release 1991 Peace Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi.

The leader of the National League for Democracy, Mrs. Suu Kyi has been under house arrest in Rangoon since July 1989.

"We want her to know that the world cares, we care and we support her and that she should derive some strength and encouragement from that fact," Arch. Tutu said.

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